



# Library Directions/ A Newsletter of the University of Washington Libraries

Volume 3 No. 1 Fall 1992

## Libraries Test New Technology

The University of Washington Libraries and Computing and Communications are working together on a new approach to helping faculty, staff and students find and use information resources through the campus network. The Libraries' online catalog has been augmented by a growing list of bibliographic resources such as MEDLINE (biomedical information) and ERIC (education resources). Individuals will also find non-bibliographic information through the Libraries' terminals. For instance, to read background information on a topic, one can browse Groliers Encyclopedia electronically. To find a definition or derivation of a word, faculty and students can use the online

catalog of the University of California, Stanford University's catalog, and the University of Michigan's catalog among others.

The system also offers up-to-date campus and current events information. There are weather forecasts for locations across the country, top news stories of the day, a schedule of events on campus, university job postings, and the UW staff directory (complete with email addresses).

The information resources available through the Libraries terminals and through the campus network will be continually expanding. PsycINFO, a database that indexes journals and conferences in psychology and psychiatry, and the Inspec database that covers electrical engineering, physics, and computer science, will be available in the next few

**New terminals in the library feature a menu that invites users to try the Libraries' catalog, other databases, or Internet access.**

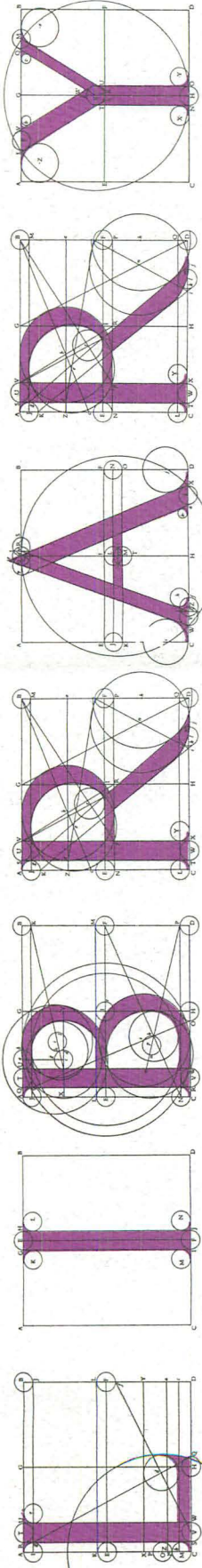
Oxford English Dictionary and Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus.

Faculty and students can now search for information through the Internet, the rapidly expanding worldwide data network that provides connections to many other university library catalogs and information sources. Through terminals in the Libraries or via a connection to the campus network, one can search Melvyl, the union

months. The Libraries is currently investigating adding the Expanded Academic Index, a database of broad interest scholarly journals, Business and Company Profile, National Newspaper Index, and Books in Print to the new system.

To use this new technology, faculty and students need only to visit one of the UW libraries, sit down at a terminal, and read the directions on the screen (Continued on page 3)

S  
N  
O  
I  
T  
C  
E  
R  
I  
D







**Dottie Smith shows a student how to use UWIN.**

## **Internet popularity spreads at UW**

With the introduction of UWIN onto the campus, users are invited to explore the resources of the Internet. By now many faculty and graduate students have discovered they can use the Internet to send mail to their colleagues across the country and to subscribe to LISTSERVs where they can converse on topics ranging from ethnomusicology to modern cinema. The actual breadth of the Internet is daunting, however, and the key issue to learning about it seems to be time; time to "surf," to "spelunk," to explore the vast resources the Internet offers.

The Internet is a worldwide conglomeration of computer networks, linking educational, governmental, and commercial establishments. The National Science Foundation's NSFNet serves as the national backbone. The University of Washington is the site for the NorthwestNet, the northwest node of this backbone. One uses the Internet by knowing some basic command language or protocols, like file transfer and telnet.

In the Libraries the Internet has become an invaluable collection development tool: Dottie Smith of the Engineering Library reports how she checks the engineering holdings of other major research institutions to see how her own collection is sizing up. The Stanford University Bookstore on Internet allows her to check textbook titles and availability. Librarians are also using access to other library catalogs as a way of verifying titles for patrons and confirming the value of other collections for professors planning research trips.

Faculty are using the Internet for their own work as well. "Generally I use Internet on a daily basis," wrote Mark Ganter, associate professor in mechanical engineering. (All the research for this story was done via e-mail). "I would guess that about 25-40%

of ALL of my correspondence takes place using e-mail. I find e-mail crucial for overseas mail (cutting time from 2 weeks to 1-2 days)."

"I use e-mail to support ALL of my classes," he continued. "I distribute all my class assignments and notices via e-mail. We set up a class electronic messaging system to allow students to e-mail to everyone in the class."

Ray Jonas, assistant professor in history, uses the FrancesHS LISTSERV, which announces calls for papers, conferences and other relevant information, from scholars across the country interested in French history. Jonas also reported that he has explored some of the periodical databases available, like CARL's Uncover (available via UWIN), but noted the cost per article for document delivery was sometimes quite expensive.

Jonas and Ganter are part of a growing population of campus faculty that have incorporated e-mail and the Internet into their research and teaching routine. Librarians all over the system have been learning, too, discovering more ways to get information remotely. The challenge of the Internet is that everyone is on the same learning curve; very little print documentation exists for the services available; exploration is the key to learning.

For more information about resources available via UWIN, or for information on how to reach a particular university catalog or other information resource, consult with your local reference librarian. Check the class listings from Computing and Communications to learn how to use e-mail available on the local uniform access computers and to learn more about using a mainframe computer environment. (See page 5 for more readings about the Internet.)

**Library Directions** is produced 3 times a year by the University of Washington Libraries staff. Inquiries concerning content or subscriptions should be sent to:

**Library Directions**  
Suzzallo Library  
Administration, FM-25  
University of Washington Libraries  
Seattle, WA 98195  
(206)543-1760

Betsy Wilson, Managing Editor  
Cindy Cunningham, Assistant Editor  
Mary Whiting, Mark Kelly, Copy Editors  
Niclas Emil Loesch, Graphics  
Michael Milligan, Photographer

Printed on acid-free, recycled paper.



(Continued from page 1)

to get started. The system is still being tested and modified, but the version currently available has many of the features of the final product. Individuals using the system might encounter some slow times and possibly some searching anomalies until development work is complete. Instructional brochures are available in every library. Librarians are teaching classes on how to use the new catalog and databases; a brochure of classes is available from any reference desk or by calling the Information Desk at 543-0242.

Faculty and students may also access many of the information resources available in the Libraries from any computer connected to the University network or by dialing into the network and logging into a University computer through a modem. For more information on getting a network connection or dialing into the campus network, faculty and staff should call 543-5970.

At a meeting of the Libraries' staff in September, Director Betty Bengtson outlined a vision of library automation in which all library functions are integrated and faculty and students have myriad electronic services and sources at their fingertips. Such a plan requires one integrated (most likely UNIX-based) platform, according to the Libraries' Associate Director for Systems Mark Kibbey, who indicated the Libraries has received funding from the university to migrate from the current Geac to a new system for acquisition, circulation, and reserve operations. Eventually, the Libraries Geac system terminals will be replaced by terminals offering access to multiple resources.

Faculty and students are invited to try out the new technology and send their comments by selecting the comment button on the terminals in the Libraries, or by sending an e-mail message [libquest@u.washington.edu](mailto:libquest@u.washington.edu).

### Faculty and students pleased with library services

Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates seem pleased with library services, according to the initial results of surveys conducted last spring.

Surveys were sent to all faculty members and to a statistical sample of graduate and undergraduate students. More than 96% in each group were satisfied or very satisfied with the UW Libraries and its services, and nearly all those surveyed had

used the Libraries during the past year. More than 90% of faculty replied that assistance was available when needed and that library staff were knowledgeable and helpful.

The Libraries are used heavily by all groups. More than 99% of the faculty responded that they used the Libraries, while 97.5% of graduate and undergraduates stated they used the Libraries during the past academic year. One interesting distinction is that nearly 50% of graduate students used the Libraries as a place to work often or occasionally, while less than 10% of faculty listed that as a reason they used the library. Graduate students were also concerned about the hours the library was open, especially during weekends and interim periods. While 76% of faculty and 79% of undergraduates replied that the library was open when they needed to use it, this dropped to 64% for graduate students.

One area where users felt that the Libraries needed to improve was the online catalog. Faculty comments focused on the need to improve response time. Such comments as "excruciatingly slow," pointedly demonstrated the current attitudes towards the Libraries' Geac catalog. The Libraries is addressing this problem through the UWIN and WILLOW interfaces to the catalog, described elsewhere in this issue.

Faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates identified the same three areas as their top priorities for the Libraries during the next decade:

	FACULTY	GRAD STUDENTS	UNDERGRADUATES
BUILD COLLECTIONS	69.8%	63.3%	52.1%
IMPROVE ONLINE CATALOG	55.3%	66.5%	62.8%
ADD DATABASES	53.3%	62.9%	54.7%

During the next several months the information will be analyzed and a complete report prepared. The Libraries will also be establishing "focus groups" of faculty and students to conduct follow-up discussions concerning areas of interest and concern identified in the survey. For more information, please contact Steve Hiller (3-5071 or e-mail to [hiller@u.washington.edu](mailto:hiller@u.washington.edu)).



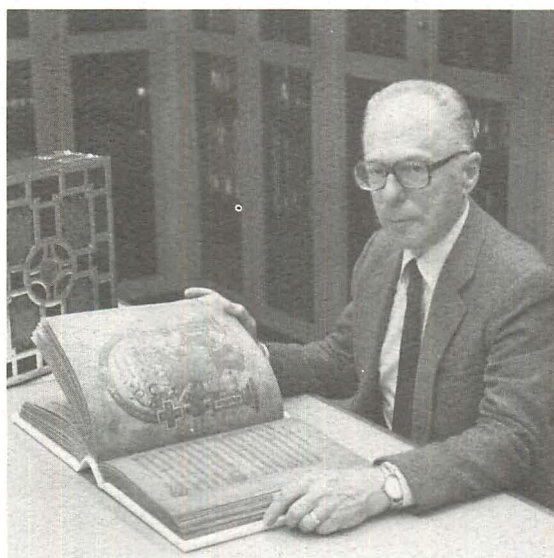
.....

## Cracking an ancient code: the Book of Kells story.

by Theresa Mudrock, Suzzallo Reference

1,000 years ago, monks labored diligently and painstakingly over an illuminated manuscript--the Book of Kells--creating beauty for the glory of God. The Book of Kells, a Gospel book, is one of the most famous and beautiful manuscripts in existence from the medieval period. The beauty and detail of its illustrations has fascinated scholars through the centuries. The most minute details have been studied, from pigment analysis to the folds of the draperies worn by figures depicted in the illustrations, in order to discover the methods and meanings hidden in the creation of the Book of Kells. Some of this mystery has been revealed through the studies of UW English professor, Robert Stevick.

Professor Stevick compares his work to cryptography, the cracking of codes. He has solved the secret underlying the page layout of the Book of Kells and many other manuscripts created in Ireland, Scotland and Northumbria during the first through ninth centuries. He began by observing nearly 12 years ago that the arrangement of lines of Old English poetry actually had proportional underpinnings. The number of lines in each section of poetry had a mathematical relationship to each other. He shrugs when asked how he first



**Dr. Robert Stevick examines the Book of Kells facsimile, which enabled him to do pioneering research on page design. The book is one of several important facsimiles located in the Libraries' Special Collections Division.**

came to see this relationship; scholars had been trying various theories of why sections of poetry ended where they did. He simply counted the lines and the relationship became clear.

Once he cracked that code, Stevick turned to illustrated manuscripts to see if the same relationships could be found between the text and illustrations. Despite centuries of study, very few scholars focused on the overall page design of illuminated manuscripts, assuming that a simple grid formed the basis of illustrations. Professor Stevick's work destroyed that earlier assumption and presents in its place the seemingly simple technique of constructive geometry.

The monks in medieval scriptorium used a straight-edge and compass to create the underlying designs of illuminated manuscripts, each part of the design derived from another, creating a unified whole. Within a manuscript, Stevick explained, there is "literary unity, mathematical unity, conceptual unity," resulting in "symbolic unity." There is in the poetry and art of the early medieval period a calculation, art and literature created within a mathematical framework. The symbolic meanings of the geometric and mathematic patterns found in the manuscripts of the time remain to be solved.

Professor Stevick can reconstruct the design of pages so accurately that he can predict the exact placement of the compass point. He has managed to decipher the formulas for creating the illustrations by examining facsimiles of illuminated manuscripts, several of which are owned by the University of Washington Libraries. He has then traveled to London, Paris, and Switzerland to examine the original manuscripts to verify his findings. A faint impression on the vellum of a manuscript left by a long ago compass point confirms the accuracy of his reconstruction.

For all his work on the Book of Kells Stevick used a state-of-the-art facsimile produced by Fine Art Facsimile Publishers of Switzerland and kept in the Special Collections Division in the basement of the south wing of Allen Library. The facsimile reproduces all 340 leaves of the manuscript, faithfully capturing the vibrant colors of pigment, differing nuances in parchment color and irregular dimensions of leaves. The publishers succeeded in creating a facsimile which is imperceptible from the original under normal light conditions by using a specially produced book holder which allowed laser scanning and photographing without damaging the original. Everything can be done with the



facsimile except examining the surface of the parchment for faint impressions left by compass and straight-edge. For that, a trip to Dublin's Trinity College, home to the Book of Kells since the 17th century, is required.

Stevick still remembers his one and only stay in Dublin, a 14-hour stopover, where he went to the college to see the manuscript. "It was surrounded by French tourists, five-deep," he recalls, and so he did not see it. Now he will be in Dublin once again, this time as an invited speaker for Trinity's 400th anniversary celebration. The college is holding a conference centered on the Book of Kells, its most famous possession. Stevick planned to arrive before the conference and stay after in hopes that he might be allowed more than a glimpse at the manuscript. He hopes for a chance to examine the pages, see how the light falls, and see if he can detect the placement of the compass when the scribe was arcing out the position for the illustration. "It's amazing how important a small impression in parchment can be," he said, "At least to some people," he added with a smile.

## Libraries briefs:

**Martha Austin** retired this August after 40 years with the University of Washington Libraries. She started work as a library assistant in the Health Sciences Library in July, 1952. She had been head of the Physics/Astronomy Library since October, 1978. **Pamela Yorks**, of the Engineering Library, is the new acting head of Physics/Astronomy through June, 1993.

**Sherrilynn Fuller**, director of the Health Sciences Library, has recently published an article entitled "Creating the Future: IAIMS planning premises at the University of Washington." The article appeared in vol 80(3), July, 1992, of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*.

**Emily E. Hull** began as a reference librarian, University of Washington-Tacoma on November 1, 1992. She received her MLS from the University of Washington in June, 1992. Prior to beginning the Tacoma position, she was employed as a student assistant in both the Reference & Research Services Division and Circulation Divisions.

**Fawzi Khoury**, Near East librarian, published the second edition of *Middle East in Microform: a Union list of Middle Eastern microforms in North American Libraries*. A gift copy was presented to the Libraries and is housed in Suzzallo's Reference and Research Services Division.

**Sandra Kroupa**, books arts librarian in the Special Collections Division, published an article in the Summer, 1992 issue of *Hand Papermaking*. The article is entitled: "Books Arts and the Library."

**Ellie Marsh**, currently social sciences reference librarian at Kansas State University, will be the new head of the Social Work Library, beginning Dec. 9, 1992. Ms. Marsh received her library degree at Emporia State University and has a degree in rural sociology from the University of Arkansas. **Lou Pray**, who has been acting head of the Social Work Library, will return to her position at the Health Sciences Library and Information Center.

**Glenda Pearson**, head of Microforms/Newspaper Division, published an extensive bibliography concerned with all aspects of reproduction of library materials, including issues of copyright and preservation. The article is entitled "The Reproduction of Library Materials in 1991" and appeared in vol. 36(3), July, 1992, of *Library Resources and Technical Services*.

(Continued from page 2)

## A Brief Bibliography on the Internet

The following is a list of recent books and articles about the Internet, designed to get a novice introduced to this new resource.

Kehoe, Brendan P. *Zen and the Art of the Internet: a beginner's guide to the Internet*. New York: Prentice Hall, 1992.

Krol, Edward. *The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly & Associates, Inc., 1992. \$24.95. Contact O'Reilly at 1-800-998-9938.

Notess, Greg R. "Gaining Access to the Internet." *Online* September, 1992: 27-32.

Polly, Jean Armour. "Surfing the Internet: an introduction." *Wilson Library Bulletin* June, 1992: 38-42, 155.

Tennant, Roy; Ober, John; Lipow, Anne. *Crossing the Internet Threshold: an instructional handbook*. Berkeley, CA: Library Solutions Press, 1992. \$40. For more information contact alipow@library.berkeley.edu.



.....

## **Libraries Donors\*** **1991-1992**

The following donors made gifts to the Libraries in 1991-92. We gratefully acknowledge their generosity and wish to honor them for their vision and their support.

### **\$10,000+**

Canadian Consulate General  
Reta A. Gilbert  
Lois A. Jorgensen  
Imogene L. Robbin  
Estate of Clara Van Sant

### **\$5,000-9,999**

Ulrich and Stella A. Fritzsche  
Andrew G. and Delney North Hilen  
Frances L. Hilen  
Dorothy C. Johnson  
University Book Store  
U.W. Intercollegiate Athletics, Barbara A. Hedges,  
Director

### **\$1,000-4,999**

Mare K. Blocker and Paul E. Miluski  
Betty G. and Peter Bengtson  
Steven M. Cohn and Carol J. McCready-Cohn  
Sherrilynne S. and David R. Fuller  
Estate of Oron J. Hale  
Wylie M. and Marjorie K. Hemphill  
W. Vance Johnson  
Vincent M. Jolivet  
Margaret N. Kelley  
Edwin G. Krebs  
Mary Hilen Merrick  
Scot Hilen Merrick  
Marc M. and Vicki Neumann  
Ann L. and Lawrence Nieder  
Philip S. and Margaret S. Padelford  
Dorothy D. and Jack C. Pitts  
Thomas H. and Alice K. Shepard  
Anne P. Tobey  
Joyce Voldal

### **\$500-999**

Richard Cardwell  
Laura W. Davis  
Lynn Kathryn Hogan  
Carl W. Jarvie  
Terry Lee and Virginia Tranter

### **\$250-499**

Gerard Bashein and Melanie J. Markle  
Robert Wallace Blake  
Carol F. and John F. Davis

Raymond C. Longtin  
Gary L. Menges  
Craig L. and Sarah C. Michalak  
Pacific Northwest Nori Growers Association  
Richard L. and Patti Partington  
Jack Stevens Tilner  
Washington State Jewish Historical Society  
James F. White and Kenneth E. Fish

### **\$100-249**

Ira B. Appelman  
Ralph L. Body  
David L. and Joanne W. Bonsteel  
The Book Arts Guild  
Barbara Gray Bruhns  
Augustine Tat Hang Chan  
Pauline W. Cordell  
Duane A. Dietz and Patricia E. Kane  
Herbert W. Drummond  
Carol M. Eastman  
Diane G. Elliott  
Kathleen E. Ellsbury  
Milo Gibaldi  
Linda Joan Gould and Howard R. Cottrell  
Lyle M. Harrah  
Anne G. Hauberg  
James F. Holly  
Frank Weber Hughes  
Barbara S. Innes  
Cleta J. Jackson  
Peter T. Johnson  
Virginia P. Lewin  
Milford H. and Julia Maib  
Patrick T. Mallahan  
Mark V. Martinez  
Edith P. McWhorter  
The Micro-Cosmic Press  
Jane and James P. Sanders  
Gary R. Shaw  
Charles Byron and Gloria J. Spoon  
Ronald Eugene and Larilyn Z. Stenkamp  
William O. and Blanche A. Turnbull  
Kathleen L. Van Veen  
Betty Lou Wagner  
Lydia Wang  
Patricia Ann Wood  
Linda M. Wright

### **\$1-99**

Susan P. Alaynick  
Paige G. and Mary E. Andrew  
Anonymous  
William C. Anthony  
Wright H. Arnold  
Russell C. Atkins  
Edward P. Bassett



**Friends of the Library Ruth Kirk and Barbara Glucksberg sort donated books in preparation for the March 6 book sale, to be held at Hec-Edmundsen pavilion. People wishing to donate books can deposit them in boxes around the Libraries, or contact the UW Retirement Association at 543-8600.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Ann M. Birnbaum                                 | Rose M. and Millard K. Ireland                     |
| Nancy G. Blase                                  | Richard R. Johnson                                 |
| Kenneth L. and Miriam L. Bonwitt                | Nancy Ellen Pierson Jones                          |
| Ernestine Brown                                 | Carol N. and Osamu Kamiyama                        |
| James Bailey Bruce                              | Max and Doris Katz                                 |
| Edith B. Burke                                  | William Kiehm                                      |
| Claudia L. Calahan                              | Kirkland Arts Center                               |
| Jeffrey S. Cargill and Catherine Howard-Cargill | Richard M. Kocan                                   |
| Richard L. and Karen L. Carlson                 | Elsa G. Kopta                                      |
| Lynne J. and David Chapman                      | Irene Korter                                       |
| Anna B. Coles                                   | James D. Kourkoumelis                              |
| Suzanne Marie Corbett                           | Estella G. Krantz                                  |
| Gordon K. Davis                                 | Marsha L. Landolt                                  |
| Behram S. and Manijeh B. Deboo                  | Henry T. and Shirley T. Lang                       |
| James A. and Kathleen R. Densley                | Virginia Sue Marr                                  |
| Paul A. Dinnel                                  | Kathleen J. Martin                                 |
| David L. Eaton                                  | Richard W. Mattson                                 |
| Michael Alan Emerson                            | Frances H. McConnel                                |
| Robert E. and Sarah J. Entenmann                | Gary and Barbara McGill                            |
| Hazel M. Evans                                  | Diane M. Morgan                                    |
| Ronald L. and Nancy A. Farrar                   | Alvin H. and Patricia J. Novack                    |
| Mary Ann Fisher                                 | John William O'Meara                               |
| Hjordis M. and Robert E. Foy                    | Peter L. and Terry E. Osborn                       |
| Rita L. Fremouw                                 | Angela and Thomas J. Owens                         |
| Mary Gitlin                                     | Douglas Patton                                     |
| Marilyn A. Gordon                               | Esther V. and Arnold C. Pearson                    |
| Francis Millard Griffin                         | Donna J. and Kenneth J. Pedersen                   |
| William T. and Norma J. Hayes                   | Patricia R. Pedigo-Kelley and Brian Holland Kelley |
| Nelma H. Hornberg                               | Phi Mu Foundation                                  |



.....

Allan F. and Laurie Rathbun  
Lewis O. Saum  
Charles Michael and Norma Schlossman  
Charleen Ellen and Daniel E. Schultz  
Barbara Grace Scott  
Stuart W. Seltzer  
Eric Mardon and Donna L. Sill  
Special Libraries Association, Pacific Northwest  
Chapter  
Donna Stafford  
John F. Steers  
Warren D. Taylor  
Robert S. and Diane C. Thompson  
University of Washington, Middle East Center  
Mark C. Valentine  
Geraldine C. and Harold A. Watters  
Mardell and Charles W. Witham  
Rebecca K. Wong  
William Gary and Sandra R. Worthington  
Helen R. Zakour

\* Includes donors of cash and appraised non-cash gifts.

Does not include Friends of the University of Washington Libraries membership dues.

## Books on their way to Romania

On September 18, 578 business and economics books purchased during the first year of the School of Business' Management Education in Romania grant, were shipped to Bucharest. The shipment also included several hundred gift books. These items will be distributed to the libraries of the National Academy of Economic Studies and the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest, two new Small Business Development Centers, and the National Agency for Privatization. Gordon Aamot, head of the Business Administration Library, will return to Bucharest during the first two weeks of November to help set up the Small Business Development Center libraries and to discuss materials to be ordered during the second year of the grant. Aamot's first trip, covered in the last issue of Library Direction's, was in November, 1991.

Many Libraries departments contributed to the success of this project, in particular Acquisitions, Accounting, Administration, Gift Processing, and the Business Administration Library.

**University of Washington  
University of Washington Libraries  
Suzzallo Library, FM-25  
Seattle, WA 98195**

**Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 62  
Seattle, WA**

Trudy Chandler  
Library Technician III  
Bothell Branch Campus  
XB-05