



Library Directions/ A Newsletter of the University of Washington Libraries

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Libraries celebrates five million volumes

On February 28 the University of Washington Libraries celebrated the acquisition of its five millionth volume with a host of distinguished speakers. University Provost Laurel Wilkening told the audience how she grew up in a small town where she read so constantly, that her mother had to make rules about when not to read books. Libraries have changed as information technology has changed, she said, but the University Libraries is still the heart of research activities on this campus.

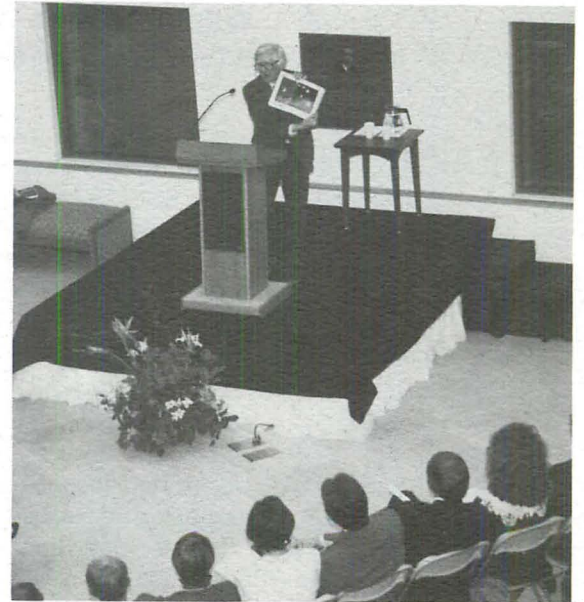
"I've been here for all the five million," claimed Betty Wagner, architecture librarian. Wagner, who has been with the Libraries for 41 years, spoke of what subjects the five million books contain and how they represent new areas of study. She mentioned biotechnology, AIDS research, organ transplants, Jewish studies, and Southeast Asian studies, as new areas collected since the fourth million book was counted, 11 years ago.

The Libraries celebrated its first million in 1959, and now, with five million books, it is only the 15th research library in the country to reach this size.

The book chosen to represent the five millionth volume was *The Uses of Ecology: Lake Washington and Beyond*, a University Press publication. The author, Professor Emeritus W.T. Edmondson, spoke at the celebration which was co-sponsored by the University of Washington Press. The book represents the quality of the Libraries' working collection, and details Edmondson's work in devising a plan to clean up Lake Washington. This work has set standards for worldwide reclamation of freshwater lakes.

Edmondson has been on the UW faculty since 1949 and holds many honors, among them Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Eminent Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America.

He entertained the audience with the story of how he became interested in lakes, from his birth beside a lake, to his move to Seattle. He, too, praised the importance of books in his life, and delighted the audience by showing them one of his favorite childhood books, which the University Libraries has in its collection. The most humorous



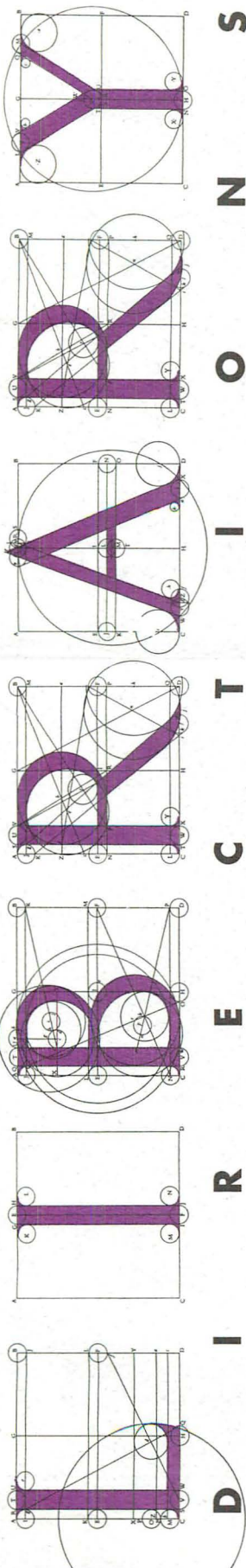
W.T. Edmondson shows the audience his childhood favorite, *The Book of Knowledge*.

part of his presentation, however, was his list of selected and rejected titles for the book being honored. He submitted the book under the title *Environmental Problem Solving and Ecological Research*. His editor called to tell him he needed a snappier title.

"I was shocked, shocked," he said, "I thought I had a snappy title." The titles that followed, including the subtitle "Ecology to the Rescue," kept the audience chuckling.

Member libraries of the Association of Research Libraries, of which the UW is one, have traditionally counted collection size as a major indicator of the quality of the library and of the university. Now that access to indexes, abstracts, and fulltext databases is available via modem and internet, it is becoming more difficult to continue to measure quality by collection size alone. Libraries are beginning to make decisions about books versus electronic formats that may or may not be housed physically in the library.

In light of the changes and constraints in collection building, the Libraries' five million volumes stands out as an impressive accomplishment. The first University Librarian Samuel Coombs, who also served as local postmaster, justice of the peace and warden of the state penitentiary, could not have foreseen the significance of his humble collection 125 years ago.



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Wilson to take the helm May 4

by Cindy Cunningham, Suzzallo Reference

The University of Washington Libraries staff is eager to welcome new Associate Director for Public Services Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson, who begins work May 4. Wilson will oversee and set standards for public service units in the University Libraries. She replaces Nancy Baker who left last spring to accept the directorship of Washington State University Libraries.

The most dramatic changes in the public service sectors of the library are a result of the new partnership between the Computing and Communications staff and the Libraries staff in designing locally loaded databases and planning for the needed training. Randy Hensley, head of library instruction for this university, said he has seen Wilson's abilities in the many national committees they have worked on together. He said she is able to provide leadership and give everyone a sense of involvement in the process. He also praised Wilson's vision in spotting emerging trends in library instruction. Such vision will be critical in setting long-range policies and priorities for the libraries in light of emerging technologies.

Mary Jane Petrowski, head of library instruction at Illinois, agrees that Betsy knows how to get people working together. "She trusts people and



Betsy Wilson

gives staff complete freedom to take chances and try out new ideas. If there is such a thing as interpersonal relationship intelligence, Betsy has it in spades."

Wilson has spent her career in Illinois, majoring in art history and German in 1977 at Northwestern University, and receiving her Masters Degree in library science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1978. She began her first professional job in February, 1979, as assistant architecture and art librarian at the Ricker Library at Illinois.

Wilson has been head of the Illinois undergraduate library since 1987 and has also served on the faculty senate, on state advisory committees concerning computers and online decisions, and on many national, professional committees within the American Library Association. One of her most unusual appointments has been as a member of the university's athletic board, overseeing intercollegiate athletics at the University of Illinois. Wilson speaks wistfully of leaving a chancellor-appointed consortium on women, information, technology, and scholarship. The consortium is developing guidelines that ensure campus-wide equity in computer hardware and software access.

Despite her extensive involvement at UI, however, Wilson is ready to move on. "I'm at the fuzzy plateau; I'm very comfortable and I am ready for different challenges," she said. "I am really excited about working with the entire staff at the University, and especially with [Library Director] Betty Bengtson and [Systems Librarian] Mark Kibbey." "I want to get the public services staff working more closely with the systems people," she continued. She also advocates strong partnerships between the public services staff and the larger academic community. "We are all part of a cooperative education process," she emphasized.

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Business Librarian reaches out to Romania

by Theresa Mudrock, Suzzallo Reference

American aid and know-how will be invaluable as Eastern Europe grapples with political and economic changes. Gordon Aamot, head of the Business Administration Library, contributed his skill and knowledge to aid Eastern Europe's transformation as part of the Management Training and Economics Education for Romania Project.

Developed by the University of Washington Graduate School of Business Administration's Executive Programs office with the assistance of the Washington State University Small Business Development Center, the project seeks to promote Romania's transition to a market economy. The project is funded by a U.S. Agency for International Development grant. Faculty and librarians from UW and WSU travelled to Bucharest this past November to share their knowledge and expertise with their Romanian hosts at the Academy of Economic Sciences (ASE) and the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest (IPB).

The project objective is to provide basic business information, (the how-tos of a market economy): everything from how to develop a business plan to the fundamentals of accounting and marketing. Gordon characterizes this objective as "Capitalism 100." There are three facets to the project: development of small business centers to provide basic information to Romanian entrepreneurs; lectures and seminars by UW business and economics faculty to Romanian faculty and students; and evaluation and provision of needed English-language business and economics library materials.

Gordon, along with WSU Librarian Alice Spitzer, visited the libraries at the Academy and Polytechnic Institute, evaluated the English-language collections and discussed with Romanian librarians and faculty the need for English-language library materials. The Romanian libraries follow the continental model with closed stacks—every item must be requested.

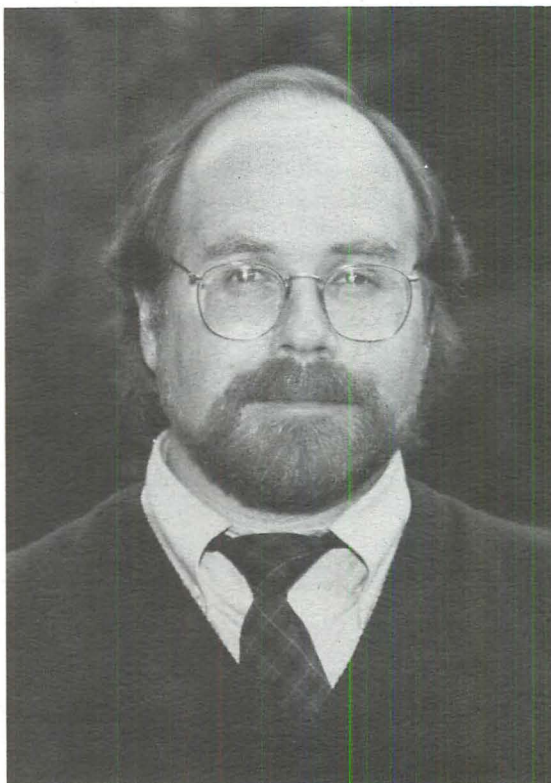
"The service concept is a lot different," said Gordon, "Here libraries are more service oriented. It is harder for people to use libraries there."

"The library situation in Romania is very bleak," according to Gordon. Libraries, like most of

Romanian society, are suffering from the lack of money. Basic necessities such as paper and light bulbs are in short supply, personal computers are practically non-existent, and even electric typewriters are few. "The Academy has one copier in the entire library," he said. Government support for library services is limited and money for the acquisition of new books and journals is scarce, he added.

An illustration of this is provided by a comparison of the serials budgets of the Academy of Economic Sciences and the Business Administration Library. The total (renewals plus new subscriptions) serials budget for ASE is \$4,000; the total UW Business Administration Library's serials budget is \$165,000.

The English-language business and economics collection is in especially sad shape, Gordon said. Most of the material predates World War II. Restrictions on Western books during the Ceausescu regime were only lifted after the revolution of 1990. Essentials such as business dictionaries, introductory textbooks, and journals such as the *Havard Business Review* are desperately needed and wanted. The Romanian librarians even requested the *Seattle Yellow Pages* as an



Gordon Aamot

example of a business information source. "There is a hunger for Western business information that is almost physical," declared Gordon.

But Romania was not all grimness and scarcity. Unlike the Commonwealth of Independent States, food was plentiful though expensive for the average Romanian. The American project team members were invited to share the home-cooked dinners of their Romanian hosts. Gordon took some time from his busy schedule to play the role of tourist, visiting the prison of the historic "Dracula," Vlad Tepes, and an extravagant conference hall, symbol of Ceausescu's megalomania. Gordon, like all Americans in Bucharest, visited the American Library at the U.S. Embassy. The American Library is the hub of the American community in Bucharest, a place "packed everyday with Romanians reading newspapers, practicing their English, and researching their projects."

Gordon is now busy acquiring books and serials for the Academy of Economic Sciences and the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest; the first shipments should go out this spring. The books acquired through this project are especially important, Gordon said, because they will be there long after UW and WSU faculty are gone.

The project continues a second year and Gordon is hoping to visit Romania again. "[The trip] gave me a new perspective, made me appreciate the kind of libraries we have here. Even with budget cuts our libraries are in much better shape." Gordon is extremely proud to participate in such an important project and believes that "American higher education and libraries need to do more in Eastern Europe—invest more money, send more people—people to show them how to do things, how to market their goods, plan their businesses..."

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CIC library merges with Engineering

by Dottie Smith, Engineering

Many campus users of computing information may have wondered why there have been two collections, one at the Engineering Library and the other at the Computing Information Center (part of Computing & Communications), with substantial duplication between them. University administrators wondered as well, and in September 1991, Betty Bengtson, Director of University Libraries, and Ron Johnson, Associate Vice-President, Computing & Communications, accepted the recommendations of a joint Libraries/C&C Task Force to transfer the library functions of the CIC to the University Libraries.

The CIC closed in December 1991 and approximately 5000 volumes were transferred to the Libraries. The Engineering Library received much of the collection, including the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) national depository collection to complement the existing computer science collection there.

There is now a central campus location for most computing material, and a single online database (the Libraries' Online Catalog) for library holdings. The Engineering Library will be open longer hours and provide more extensive reference service.

Professor Ed Lazowska, Associate Chair of Computer Science and Engineering commented, "The staff at the Computing Information Center has done a wonderful job over the years. But having all the material that we need located in one place, close to us, will have enormous advantages for our research and education programs."

Library to Department Document Delivery Available

Do you need to review a recent article in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*? Have a need to check a reference for that fast approaching deadline? The University of Washington Libraries now provides fast access to journal articles in the Libraries collections. This service, called Library Express, will pull, copy, and mail copies of journal articles to campus requestors. Faculty and staff can now order journal articles from all library collections. (The Health Sciences Library and Information Center currently has a similar pull and copy service; call 543-3436 for

more HSLIC information.) Requests can be submitted by electronic mail, telephone, FAX or by campus mail. In most cases, requests will be processed and put in the campus mail within 24 hours of receipt. The costs of the service are as follows:

Basic Costs:

- *requests paid by departmental budgets will be charged \$4.00 per article up to 50 pages
- *non-department requests paid by Visa/Mastercard, cash or check will be charged \$4.90

Additional Costs

- *articles more than 50 pages will be charged an additional \$.10 per page
- *faxing an article costs an additional \$3.00
- *mailing an article to an off-campus address is an additional \$1.25

To send a request via electronic mail: first, send a message to docme@u.washington.edu. This mailbox will automatically respond with a copy of the electronic mail form. (Response may take a few minutes.) You can then save the form, fill it in, and edit it. Then send the completed request to libx@u.washington.edu.

To send a FAX or mail request: call 685-3986 to request form. Faxes should be sent to 685-8049. For more information, call 685-3986.

Rich Collection of Children's Books to be Cataloged

by Loretta Lopez, Curriculum and Children's Literature Section

Historical children's books are a rich resource for study of social values and thought as well as for studying the history of the book and of illustration and illustrators.

In 1974, the University of Washington Libraries recognized the need for a regional repository of a historical children's literature collection and established the Children's Literature Archive. Over 8,000 children's and young adult titles published prior to 1943 (1945, if World War II oriented) were donated to the Archive from 88 libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Of these titles over 6,700 volumes were identified as having historical or research value or having nostalgic appeal. More than 2,400 titles have been cataloged and are

housed in the Curriculum Materials and Children's Literature Section at Suzzallo Library.

An LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) grant was awarded in 1991 through the Washington State Library to catalog the remaining volumes in the Archive and include them on OCLC, WLN, Lasercat, and the University of Washington Online Catalog. Institutions in the state of Washington may borrow titles from the Archive through a no-fee interlibrary loan agreement. The grant, which ends June 30, 1992, is a cooperative effort among four area libraries: the King County Library System, Seattle Public Library, Sno-Isle Regional Library, and University of Washington Libraries.

For further information about this collection, contact Loretta Lopez, Reference/Education Librarian, loreya@u.washington.edu or 685-1637.

Libraries share in Luce Foundation Grant

by Linda Fredericks, Geography Library

As the result of a Henry Luce Foundation grant, the University Libraries will be able to catalog more Southeast Asian materials and offer additional collection support to the Southeast Asian Studies Program.

The grant was awarded to the Northwest Regional Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies, which was established in 1987 by the Universities of Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. The Consortium was one of two institutions nationally to be invited to apply for the Luce grant which provides \$200,000 to be used specifically for library development. This three-year grant will be divided between the UW and the U of O, the two eligible U.S. institutions of the Consortium, and used for their cooperative collection development effort.

As part of the Consortium agreement, the UW is responsible for acquiring materials from Malaysia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the University of Oregon acquires materials from the Philippines. While the University of British Columbia has primary responsibility for acquiring materials from Indonesia, the UW also maintains a comprehensive collection of Indonesian materials to support faculty and students interests.

The Consortium was recognized as a Federally Funded National Resource Center for Southeast

Asian Studies in 1987, and was invited to apply for its first Luce grant in 1988. That grant funded the appointment of Judith Henchy as Southeast Asian librarian and provided for acquisitions over a four-year period.

To explore collection development opportunities, Judith Henchy travelled to Southeast Asia in 1990. She attended the Eighth Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians in Jakarta, and visited Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Laos. She also spent five weeks in Vietnam studying the condition of libraries and historical resource material in Vietnam as part of a project funded by the Social Science Research Council.

A primary vehicle for acquiring library materials is the Library of Congress Cooperative Acquisitions Program. Through this program vernacular titles are collected through offices in Jakarta, Bangkok, and Kuala Lumpur and then sent to participating libraries. The UW is also part of an exchange and acquisition program with libraries in Vietnam.

The Consortium offers affiliate status to smaller institutions with faculty interested in Southeast Asian studies. Judith Henchy edits a newsletter, "Southeast Asian Library News", for consortium members and affiliates, and the consortium holds workshops for affiliate members on providing library resources for Southeast Asian Studies.

For more information concerning the Southeast Asian collection or Consortium activities, please contact Judith Henchy, 543-3986.

From the Bookshelves Of Dictionaries, Word Lists, and Wordsmiths by Carolyn Mateer, Development Office

Mark Twain once said, "The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug."

A search for the right word draws many library users to the dictionary section. Some are wordstruck and actually read dictionaries, finding an hour with Daniel Webster as engaging as an hour with Balzac, Hardy, or Saul Bellow.

We have no recorded history of the first dictionary. We do know that Aristophanes, the librarian of the Alexandrian library, was compiling a dictionary of Greek words at the beginning of the second century B.C. and that the earliest Chinese

dictionary was produced about A.D. 100.

Most compilers of dictionaries are polymaths, inveterate readers with multiple language capabilities who willingly make such efforts a life's work. Sir John Murray, who devoted most of his life to the compilation of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), died just as he reached the t's. Samuel Johnson, on the other hand, defined "dull" as "not delightful, as, to make dictionaries is dull work." Johnson was perhaps speaking tongue in cheek, since he himself was a lexicographer without peer.

Lovers of language are found in many occupations and disciplines. Lewis Thomas, the gifted scientist, has written an absorbing new book called *Et Cetera, Et Cetera: the Memoirs of a Word Watcher*, in which he extolls the virtues of the armchair etymologist. John Sykes, sometime editor of the compact OED, is an astrophysicist and crossword puzzle expert who has found word watching to be profitable. Sykes frequently wins the Times/Cutty Sark crossword contest in which the first prize is a trip to Monte Carlo and a half gallon of whiskey.

The Suzzallo Reference and Research Services Division also holds the electronic OED, through which it is possible to learn how many words in the English language are of Turkish origin, or all the synonyms for the word "pier," or whether Dickens ever used the word "garrot."

The OED usually claims to have the last word, but its half million terms are supplemented in the Libraries by hundreds of very specialized sources, such as the *Dictionary of Euphemisms* (for the faint of heart), *Sailor's Slang*, *The Dictionary of the American Underworld*, *The Dialects of Vernacular Syriac*, *The Dictionary of Picturesque Expressions*, *English English* (as opposed to American English,) or *Bulgarian Pseudonyms*.

An important new work, *The Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE), has as yet appeared in only one volume, A-C. (Dictionary compilation, even in the age of computers, seems to be lifetime work). When completed, DARE will be a compilation of regional speech in the United States, identifying words and their usage as particular to Appalachia or Southeast Texas.

English, with its over 500,000 words, has grown because of its flexibility and openness to new terminology. Stuart Flexner, in his two volumes on the origins of American speech, *I Hear America Singing*, and *Listen to America* shows how American English has changed not only

because of regional differences, but also as a result of national events. Flexner tells us how many words have come into common usage because of baseball, and the effects on our language of events as separated in time as the gold rush and Watergate. French, by contrast, is a language of less than 200,000 words, protected from invasion by the French Academy, though "Franglais" does manage to infiltrate.

Those interested in having the last word, or at least preparing for it, may want to look at *Famous Last Words*. One might hope to be more eloquent than William Pitt, who on his death bed could only ask for "one more of Bellamy's meat pies." Oscar Wilde, on the other hand, was able to say, "I die as I have lived, beyond my means." After all, eloquence is "the art of using language with fluency, power, and aptness." (*The Random House College Dictionary*, 1984, p. 430).

Nexis database available all over campus

The Nexis/Lexis database, a fulltext news and legal information database, is now available from many libraries on campus. Nexis, which includes international wire stories, newspapers, magazines, television news scripts, U.S. government information and state code and court case information, has been available on the campus for several years. Changes in the company's technology, however, now allow librarians access via the Internet, using software that emulates the modem connection. This change in access has broadened the availability on campus, and librarians in Health Sciences, Engineering, Undergraduate Library, Business, and Natural Sciences are now actively using the database. The traditional service points in Suzzallo, through Reference, Government Publications or Microforms/Newspapers, are also still offering Nexis access. Interested university patrons should check with their regular library to see where to have a search done.

Suzzallo Reference and the Undergraduate Library are planning a more systematic training effort, in response to student and faculty wishes to search the database themselves. Faculty who are interested in having a demonstration or training session for a class should contact their library liaison or call Cindy Cunningham, 685-1439. The Libraries is exploring various options in expanding access, and university users are encouraged to ask about using this database for their research.

Libraries briefs:

Personnel

Guela Johnson, head of the Social Work Library, will be retiring in June, after a long and successful career with the University of Washington Libraries. Johnson worked as a student assistant in Suzzallo Library, and as a supervisor in the Social Work Library before getting her library degree from the University of Washington in 1969 and assuming her current position.

Carolyn Mateer, development officer for the UW Libraries, retired March 1, after more than 11 years in the library system. Mateer came to the Libraries from Cleveland, OH, where she was head of reference for Cleveland State University. She served as head of Suzzallo Reference from October, 1979 until the fall of 1989 when she assumed a new position as development officer for the Libraries.

Library Services

The Government Publications Division, in Suzzallo Library, has an expanded CD-ROM collection that includes extensive foreign and statistical data. The *National Trade Data Bank* (NTDB) on CD-ROM contains documents, tables and time series from 15 U.S. government agencies on U.S. foreign trade and international economics. *Department of State Background Notes* on selected foreign countries are included on this disc. The second-most recent copy of this disc is housed at the Business Administration Library in Balmer Hall.

For a general resource to locate statistics from the U.S. government, state governments, and private research and trade organizations, consult the *CIS Statistical Masterfile* on CD-ROM, also in the Government Publications Division. Sources of these statistics can be found in either paper or microfiche in the University Libraries' collection.

Suzzallo Reference is pleased to announce that it now has the complete set, 1862-1992, for *Dissertations Abstracts* on CD-ROM. The set was stolen from the Libraries in February, 1991, when a Pioneer 6-disc changer was taken with all CD-ROMs inside. Thanks to UMI's Western Regional Marketing Director Karen Draper, the UW Libraries received a free backfile to replace the stolen discs. The product is located in the reference room, and a sign-up sheet is available at the CD-ROM station.



Ignatius Reilly, A.K.A. Jill McKinstry, assistant to the Library Director, won first place in a staff costume party to celebrate the five millionth volume. Reilly is the protagonist in J.K. Toole's novel, *A Confederacy of Dunces*.

Libraries will survey faculty needs

Are you satisfied with library hours and services? Do you have a particular service in mind that the libraries does not yet provide? How do you use the library to find what you need? The opportunity to answer these and other questions will arrive in faculty mailboxes this spring quarter.

Library Director Betty Bengtson has appointed a year-long task force on library services to evaluate what the libraries is doing and how it can do it better. The task force, headed by Science Librarian Steve Hiller, will survey the faculty and other user populations to get a profile of user needs and practices.

"The survey will provide an excellent forum for the university community to express its opinions and concerns about library services," Hiller said, "We hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to provide input on how the libraries can better support research and instruction activities."

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