



Library Directions/ A Newsletter of the University of Washington Libraries

Volume 11 No. 3 Spring 2001

Earthquake!

Gordon Aamot, Acting Associate Director of Libraries

The Nisqually Earthquake that shook the Puget Sound region the morning of February 28, 2001, did not disrupt any of the Libraries electronic services, but it knocked tens of thousands of books off the shelves, damaged stack ranges, and impacted service in a number of University Libraries units. Over 1000 volumes were damaged during the quake. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate that no one was seriously injured and that the Libraries did not suffer greater physical damage to its facilities and collections.

One of the best pieces of advice we received after the quake was to document damage as fully as possible. Staff members captured hundreds of images, many of which can be seen at www.lib.washington.edu/about/quake. We have created a fascinating collection of images detailing the destructive impact an earthquake can have on a library.

After a month of cleanup efforts, it's difficult to see the effects of the quake in most Libraries units. However, several libraries will require substantial replacement of shelving, especially the Engineering and Fisheries-Oceanography libraries. Following is a summary of the impact of the earthquake on the Libraries:



Earthquake damage in the Engineering Library

Engineering Library: The Engineering Library suffered the greatest damage of any University Libraries facility. There was no structural damage to the facility itself, but literally every stack range on the second, third, and fourth floors was damaged by the earthquake. In a few places stacks twisted and collapsed, dumping

books on the floor. In most of the library, however, stack ranges didn't collapse to the floor but, instead, sagged lengthwise—changing the shape of the range from a rectangle to a parallelogram. Considering the damage, it's striking how few books actually fell off the shelves. The University was initially very concerned about the possibility of the stacks collapsing and crashing through windows, so the library was ordered closed until the windows could be covered with plywood. On March 1, the first floor of the Engineering Library opened again but offered only limited services. Due to safety concerns, the second, third, and fourth floors were closed to the public after the earthquake.

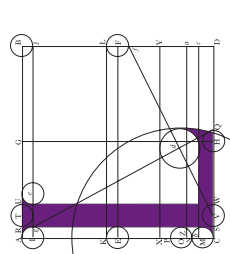
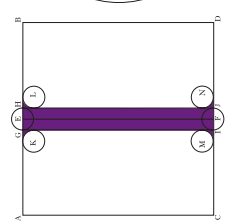
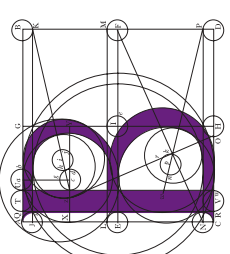
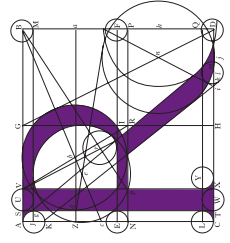
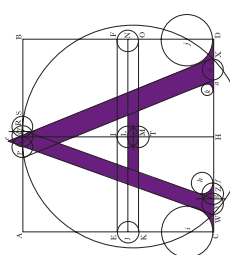
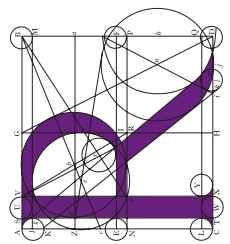
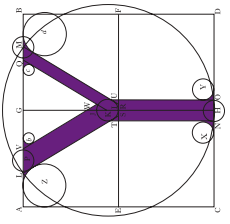
By the beginning of Spring Quarter, Libraries, University, and Sellen Construction staff developed a way to stabilize the shelving so that staff could retrieve upper floor materials for users. We are happy to say that all floors are open again to the public as of April 6.

Fisheries-Oceanography Library: The Fisheries-Oceanography Library suffered the same kind of catastrophic stack collapse as the Engineering Library did, but on a smaller scale. As in Engineering, staff members were able to provide circulation, reserve, and reference services after the quake, but access to most of the collection was off-limits. The Fisheries-Oceanography stacks have been braced and temporary shelving has been erected in the lower floor of the library. Materials were paged for users by staff until April 7, when the lower floor was opened again to the public. Like the Engineering Library stacks, all the damaged Fisheries-Oceanography stacks on the lower floor will eventually need to be replaced.

Suzzallo Library: The 1963 section of Suzzallo was closed February 28 and staff sent home until the facility could be inspected. There was no structural damage to the building and the 1963 section opened again on March 1, except for the 4th floor where three ranges of stacks collapsed. Books from the 4th floor were paged for users until March 5th, when the floor was opened again to the public.

Fortunately, the 1925 and 1935 wings of Suzzallo have been undergoing a \$42.6 million seismic retrofitting construction project since last summer. The construction site was shut down temporarily for in-spection, but work began again the week of March 5. The seismic work that has been completed made a

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Fourth floor, Suzzallo Library stacks

big difference in how well the building fared during the earthquake. More detailed information about the Suzzallo Library Renovation Project is available at www.lib.washington.edu/about/suzzren/.

Odegaard Undergraduate Library: Over 700 books fell from the shelves, but the main concern has been the ceiling. The quake brought down 165 large (18" x 53") ceiling tiles. The third floor of the library was closed to the public after the earthquake but was opened again the week of March 5. The ceiling tiles and the metal grid structure holding the tiles in place remain a concern and will need to be replaced or removed.

Mathematics Research Library: The Math Research branch library suffered some stack damage during the quake. Math Library staff provided circulation, reserve, and reference services, although staff and users had no access to Math collections until March 9.

Physics-Astronomy Library: This library, located on the 5th floor of the new Physics-Astronomy Building, suffered no interruption in service, but approximately 5,000 volumes fell from its stacks. Some stack bracing was damaged and will need to be repaired.

Health Sciences Libraries: The Health Sciences Library in the T-Wing of the Health Sciences complex and K.K. Sherwood Library at Harborview Medical Center were closed Wednesday and Thursday, but reopened on March 2. The libraries themselves made it through the quake relatively unscathed, but there were significant safety concerns about the buildings in which they operate.

East Asia Library: Few books fell in the stacks, but several pieces of decorative trim from the ceiling in the ornate Reading Room broke off. Because of safety concerns, portions of the room were roped off, but all library services are available.

Sand Point Shelving Facility: The Sand Point Shelving Facility contains approximately 550,000 volumes of important but low-use material. The building suffered no structural or stack damage, but the quake toppled nearly 11,000 volumes. A "clean-up" party was held March 8-9 and staff volunteers re-shelved all the volumes in just two days.

The Libraries is still gathering information and assessing damage to the collections. We are considering the Earthquake of 2001 to be a "wake-up call" and are planning an audit of Libraries shelving in the near future. With this information, we can replace and upgrade shelving as funds become available.

We are especially grateful to Libraries staff members, who have taken the past months in stride and worked long hours to restore services disrupted by the quake. With no physical access to the book and journal stacks, staff members in the Engineering Library, Fisheries-Oceanography Library, Interlibrary Borrowing and Serials Acquisitions have gone the extra mile to secure the information students and faculty need to do their course work and research. It's a tribute to their ingenuity, energy, and commitment that library services in those units continued uninterrupted despite the disruption and destruction caused by the earthquake. It's the Libraries staff and the work they do to connect people to information that makes us an indispensable part of the University of Washington.

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www.lib.washington.edu/about/libdirections/current/.

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The Libraries Move to Digital Collections

Joyce L. Ogburn, Associate Director of Libraries

An article in the **Fall 2000 issue of *Library Directions*** (“Transforming the Libraries: What the move to digital collections means to you”) presented information about the variety of pressures and changes in the information environment affecting UW Libraries and their impact on our users. It also reported in general terms that the Libraries has decided to change substantially how it does business. The gist of the article was that the Libraries will respond strategically to changes in the information environment by enlarging our digital collections and services.

To guide us in the implementation of this transformation, we have developed a set of four overarching principles and some assumptions ([http:// to be supplied](http://to.be.supplied)). Uppermost in our minds has been your needs and how to meet them effectively, while recognizing that the Libraries, like many areas of the University, faces possible severe financial constraints.

First, the Libraries will increase the range of electronic resources available. Individual decisions will carefully weigh the advantages and disadvantages of traditional and digital formats. We recognize that not all disciplines have a strong body of digital materials that support research and teaching. Other formats may be more appropriate to collect at this time, such as manuscripts, videotapes, printed acting editions, printed music, and the like.

A new initiative, the “Public Library of Science,” has emerged that is dedicated to the belief that “the permanent, archival record of scientific research and ideas should neither be owned nor controlled by publishers, but should belong to the public, and should be made freely available.”

The UW Libraries supports this initiative. We urge you to see www.publiclibraryofscience.org/ to learn more about this effort, which in a brief period of time has found broad support from the scientific community. The list of signatures to the open letter grows daily and already contains a variety of influential researchers. We encourage you to add your name to the list.

Second, we will retool our operations to promote timely response to opportunities and needs as they arise. Organizational agility in support of our service mission is our goal. Decision making will become more efficient without, however, sacrificing thorough consideration of consequences and costs.

Third, the Libraries must think more strategically about purchases and cancellations. In anticipation of lack of resources to meet the needs of the coming biennium, we will launch another serials cancellation project this spring. This time we seek to incorporate this difficult task into our efforts to break out of the cycle of spiraling costs and increasing volume of new information in proliferating media. We will first focus on eliminating duplication among formats (electronic, print, or microform) wherever possible. Reducing duplication, however, will not mitigate the need for deeper cuts. We must expand our vision of collections to include partner libraries and organizations committed to sharing resources, services and strategies.

Fourth, we will vigorously engage faculty in examining the dynamics of scholarly communications and publishing, working to discover opportunities to break free of the monopolistic power of the commercial publishers, especially in business, science, technology, and medicine. The UIF proposal for establishing a Digital Cooperative to support the publishing and archiving of local research in digital formats was one such effort. Although the proposal did not move forward to the second round, we will be seeking other sources of funds to support this initiative.

As we developed our guiding principles we also outlined assumptions that underlie our decision making. The Libraries will have to change in fundamental ways to effect a true transformation. Business will not be the same in a transformed environment, and we must review every facet of our culture and practices. Additionally, we recognize that resources will be constrained and many decisions will undoubtedly be very difficult.

Decisions will be made as a three-campus library system, taking into account your different needs and expectations of library resources. We will always seek to find a means to provide the needed information, though perhaps not in the same manner as we have.

User surveys, anecdotal evidence, and library literature all point towards academic library users’ desire for increased access to electronic resources. Most recognize the greater utility, efficiency, and greater research power electronic resources can provide. We will collect and use data wherever possible to inform our decisions.





This photograph from an album on the Grand Coulee Dam documents when “the Last remaining tree in the Columbia River reservoir was cut down with fitting ceremony on July 19, 1941.”

There is widespread development of electronic resources and tools in science, medicine, technology, and business—coincidentally the areas that experience the greatest increases in serial publication costs. By focusing much of our efforts within these subjects we hope to increase our service while containing costs. In many respects cost containment will be the key test of our transformational efforts.

The Libraries is dedicated to maintaining high standards of service, accuracy, and user-centered operations. We realize that these proposed changes will affect the entire University. We will communicate our decisions and progress to all. For example, to solicit feedback on these directions, we held two faculty focus group sessions, on February 28 and March 1. These sessions were invaluable for learning about the concerns and issues that this direction raises. We also heard tremendous support for the Libraries and the message that faculty are willing to work with the Libraries in transforming campus information resources.

Even with strong principles and a willingness to change, the process of transformation will not take place overnight. Since much of what we do in the future will be in league with changes in information technology and scholarly research, we expect ongoing transformational challenges. But we should not forget that all this will play out within the Libraries’ long, honorable tradition of service to the UW community.

I invite you to join our efforts to make this needed, crucial transformation.

New Curator of Photographs and Graphics

Nicolette Bromberg comes to the UW Libraries with 20 years experience in historical photograph collections. Previously she was the Curator of the Visual Materials collections at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and before that she was the photo archivist for the University of Kansas. She would like to build the Libraries’ holdings by collecting both early regional photographs and also the work of practicing photographers currently documenting the region. She is interested in the possibility of developing a local moving image collection consortium to share issues in the collection and preservation of film and video in Washington and in seeing the digital collections grow. Currently, selections from our photo collections are available on the Information Gateway under “Image Collections.”

Collection Discoveries

by Nicolette Bromberg, Curator of Photographs and Graphics

The photographs and graphics section of **Manuscripts, Special Collections, University Archives (MSCUA)** contains a wide variety of historical visual resources, including photographs, architectural drawings, posters, lithographs, engravings, and maps, all of which help document the Pacific Northwest.

The photograph collections are wonderful glimpses of the history of our region. They may be the only record we have of a lost place. The Cooke collection, for example, contains photographs of the village of Afognak, Alaska, that was swept away in a 1964 tidal wave.



Native Wedding, Afognak, Alaska, ca. 1918

Theater, vaudeville and film are popular topics in the collection, as are many aspects of the timber industry. The particularly beautiful photograph below is part of the John Cress collection of logging photographs.



Spruce log raft at Kernville, near the mouth of the Siletz River [Oregon]

The people of the region, from immigrant groups to the various Native American tribes who made their homes here, are the subject of many photographs.

Major events of the region also appear in the photograph collection. A few examples are the first ascent of Mt. Rainier, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909, and the turn of the century Klondike Gold Rush. Many photographers recorded activities that changed the face of the city and state landscape—Seattle’s Denny Regrade project and the Grand Coulee Dam in eastern Washington had a great impact on the region. Disasters, such as the Seattle Fire, the collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, are also popular subjects in the collection.

The Linked Multimedia Web Catalog

Kathleen Forsythe, Electronic Resources Cataloging Librarian

A library user searches the [UW Libraries Catalog](#) for information about earthquakes. Scanning the results list, they notice the title “Latest earthquake information.” Clicking on this line retrieves a catalog record for the Web site of the National Earthquake Information Center in Denver. A click on the “Connect to this title online” hot link connects the user to the Web site, which contains a near real-time earthquake list from around the world.



Near real-time information in the Libraries catalog? With the Web environment, the catalog has taken another evolutionary step from the static, surrogate card, and from the interaction between abstracting/indexing services and library locations in UWIN, to encompass the full range of materials available on the World Wide Web. A count taken in mid-

March showed nearly 28,000 records containing URLs linked to various kinds of Web resources, and this figure increases daily. The resources are a combination of those purchased from vendors and free sites selected by librarians to be of particular interest to the UW community. Full text is available for many journal articles, as well as reports, conference proceedings, and government documents. All kinds of indexes and databases are available. Various images such as photographs and maps, data files containing census or geographic information, sound files, video clips, and interactive multimedia sites containing some combination of these may all be found. Catalog records that primarily describe print, CD-ROM, videorecording or microform publications may also contain URLs. These URLs may be the online equivalent of the hard copy resources, or they may supplement the hard copy in some way. Examples of URLs serving as accompanying information are tables of contents, reviews, indexes, finding aids to special collections materials, and sites to download updated information as it becomes available, such as computer program upgrades.

Records for remote electronic resources will automatically be part of your retrieval when doing any general catalog search. So, if you have no preference regarding the type of media to satisfy your search, the catalog serves as a gateway not only to materials in the library, but selected resources from the Web world beyond library walls. If you ever want to see just Web sites, there are a number of ways to do this. In the catalog you can do a search, then choose the limit/sort button, click on the down arrow in WHERE Item is located, then highlight Electronic Resources from the list of locations. Or if you use the keyword search screen, you can do this in one step by adding Electronic Resources in the Location box. Many of these sites may also be found in the Libraries Information Gateway through the Search feature or browsing by subject. URLs that represent just accompanying information, such as tables of contents, are not in the Information Gateway and are not retrievable using the electronic resources limit in the catalog.

So next time you point that mouse towards your favorite Web search engine, consider using the UW Libraries Catalog (catalog.lib.washington.edu) as a source of authoritative, accurate, and scholarly links to the World Wide Web!

Here are some Web resource searches to try in the UW Libraries Catalog:

Search these by title:

- *Internet handbook for writers*
- *WAGDA*
- *People of the wind*
- *Natural connections*
- *Canadian encyclopedia (2000 ed.)*
- *American Indians of the Pacific Northwest*
- *Bryozoa present and past*
- *U.S. news & world report*

Search as author:

- *NetLibrary*

Suzzallo Renovation Update

Paula Walker, Assistant Director of Libraries

Below is a summary of Suzzallo construction activity from January through June 2001:

- Frame and pour concrete shear walls in the 1925 and 1935 Suzzallo buildings.
- Install structural steel to strengthen the columns at each end of the Suzzallo Reading Room. (After this seismic bracing is completed, the interior end walls will be replaced with the finishes that were in the room before.)
- Fabricate and install overhead bracing in the ceiling of the Grand Stair Hall that will seismically connect the 1925 building to the octagon.
- Install new structural steel beams in the 1935 building on the first and second floors.
- Complete structural work in the 1925 and 1935 mechanical rooms and install the large air handling unit for each room.
- Brace the stone arches at the Suzzallo West Entrance.
- Reinforce the masonry at the West exterior wall of the 1925 building.
- Install mechanical ductwork in the 1935 building.
- Install all mechanical and electrical equipment.
- Install fire alarm and sprinkler system throughout.
- Add seismic braces in the 1963 building, beginning with the second, fourth, and fifth floors, and then proceeding to the first and third floors.

As part of the effort to cut costs for the **Suzzallo Renovation Project**, the construction schedule was compressed into a shorter time. In practical terms, this has meant that the seismic bracing in the 1963 building began nine months into the project and well over a year before the work in the rest of Suzzallo could be completed. Instead of being able to move staff and collections back into these spaces, the Libraries has had to find other ways to clear the construction areas in the 1963 building. Therefore, 70 library staff members in Monographic Services and Serials Services were moved to a facility at Sand Point, and a large portion of the collections from the fourth floor of Suzzallo (the Dewey 800s and 900s) had to be moved to the Sand Point shelving facility. Collections remaining in Suzzallo on the second, third, and fourth floors have been rearranged to clear the construction zones.

In spite of these challenges, the Libraries staff continue to make every effort to provide efficient services and quick retrieval from the collections that are temporarily located out of the building.



L-R: Ellen Blom, Charles Johnson, Betsy Wilson, Dan Blom

Blom Endowed Library Fund Sponsors Charles Johnson Lecture

Dr. Charles Johnson, UW faculty member and recipient of the 1990 National Book Award for his novel *Middle Passage*, gave a commentary and reading from his novel of historical fiction about Martin Luther King entitled *Dreamer* at the March 29 lecture sponsored by the Blom Endowed Library Fund. Johnson is a novelist, essayist, critic, philosopher, illustrator, screenwriter and playwright.

Libraries Briefs

Appointments

Kathleen Collins, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Odegaard Undergraduate Library, 3/1/01.

Laura Lillard, Education Librarian, Reference and Research Services, 3/1/01.

Linda Whang, Engineering Instructional Services Librarian, Engineering Library, 3/12/01.

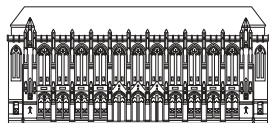
Retirements

Patricia Kane, Library Specialist I, Serials Services, 3/31/01.

Daniel Victor, Library Specialist I-Supervisor, Monographic Services/Acquisitions, 3/31/01.

Resignation

Kathryn Womble, Head, Map Collection and Cartographic Information Services, 3/31/01.



Undergraduate Library; **Gloria Jeffcott**, Monographic Services; **Christine Jew**, Odegaard Undergraduate Library; **Steve Stockamp***, Circulation.

Thirty (30) years of service: **Thomas Bolling**, Odegaard Undergraduate Library.

Thirty-five (35) years of service: **Patricia Kane**, Serials Services.

* These staff members were recognized for length of service in 2000, but were eligible prior to 2000.



*On June 11, 2001, **Betty Wagner** celebrates the 50th anniversary of her position as Head, Architecture and Urban Planning Library.*

“What Have You Got on Your Bookshelf?”

Do you have rare and unique books? Are you curious about their value? Bring your book to the **Friends of the UW Libraries** event on **Saturday, June 2 at 2 p.m.** in **Room 220** of the **Odegaard Undergraduate Library**, hosted by the Friends Rare Book Committee.

Patterned after the popular "Antiques Roadshow," this event will bring book dealers, appraisers and collectors together for a lively discussion about book collecting and to help you assess the value of special books from your own collection. Free for Friends of the UW Libraries and \$10 for the general public.

For more information or to RSVP, please e-mail klinda@u.washington.edu or call (206) 543-1760.

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