



ACRL Washington Newsletter

Spring 2009, No. 64

President's Message by Anna Salyer

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This year passed quickly - filled with traveling, meeting new people, and working in our profession in new ways. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the ACRL-WA Chapter President. Because of holding this position, I was able to represent Washington on the Chapters Council, co-chair a subcommittee for a national conference, and begin to learn the unique skills of advocating for Libraries. Your contributions as well as many of our colleagues across the nation are impressive and vital to the goals of our profession. As tough as our economic situations may be at this time, I have every confidence in our collective abilities to advance our purpose and communicate the value of library services and resources everywhere.

Many thanks to Past President, Corey Johnson who conducted this year's election. Alyssa Deutschler from UW Bothell was elected Vice-President/President elect and Andrea Kueter from UPS was elected Member-at-Large. Congratulations! Thanks also to all the people who ran but did not win. Please try again next year! Jan Hartley, will assume the ACRL-WA presidency after our May 13th Board meeting. The Board meeting will again be held via teleconference and Board members will connect from WSU, UW Seattle, and UW Tacoma. Our primary focus will be discussing our upcoming conference.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

ACRL WA Conference
Pack Forest, October 29 & 30

Scholarships available for WA State LIS students and 1st time attendees.

Details forthcoming. Watch the ACRL-WA web site.

Mark your calendars for the ACRL-WA Conference at Pack Forest on October 29 & 30. If you'd like to be involved with the conference planning and/or staging, please contact Jan Hartley at HARTLEYJ@seattleu.edu.

ALA Midwinter was held in snowy, mile-high Denver this year. Jan Hartley and I attended the Chapter's Council meeting and enjoyed meeting representatives from Chapter's all over the United States as well as many of the librarians who are candidates for ACRL National positions.

Draft minutes can be read at:

http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/about/chapters/minutes/Chapters_Council_Minutes_from_Denver_MW_09.cfm

The meeting ended with a training session on creating the annual chapter report. This report must be submitted for chapters to receive funding for members who also belong to ACRL National. Thanks to the preliminary work of the New England chapter, an ad-hoc subcommittee of the Council drafted and submitted a proposal to ACRL National to increase the funding from \$1 to \$3 per member. Our Chapter's Secretary/Treasurer, Mark O'English recently reported that we have 9 new members. It pays to increase our membership so please keep recruiting new members!

The ACRL National 14th Conference in Seattle was deemed a huge success. Over 4,300 members enjoyed the first sunny days and tolerated the last rainy days. The sessions were well attended and we received many positive remarks from the volunteers and attendees when they stopped by the Volunteer Booth. The 2011 conference will be held in Philadelphia.

It has been a pleasure to serve as ACRL-WA President and I look forward to another year as Past President. Have a great summer and I hope to see you all at Pack Forest in October.

Anna Salyer, Outgoing President



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City University of Seattle

Personnel

The Vi Tasler Library welcomes **Mahrya Carncross** as our newest librarian. Mahrya has been with CityU as a library assistant since 2007. She will graduate in June with a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Washington. Mahrya has a keen understanding of CityU students, faculty, and staff and their information needs and brings experience conducting legal research and providing reference support to CityU's community. Mahrya's previous work experience includes teaching people how to access resources in the National Archives and Records Administration face-to-face and through an online course she developed.

The Vi Tasler Library also welcomes **Mary Mara** as the Director of Library Services. Mary has been with CityU since 2003 when she was hired as the Tacoma Branch Librarian and led the library's implementation of online reference services. In September 2006, she was promoted to Instruction Coordinator where she supervised the liaison librarians and led the library's unique program collaborating with faculty to integrate information literacy instruction throughout CityU's curriculum. Mary has been the library's interim director since December 2008. During her time at CityU, Mary has served on a number of committees, including: Curriculum Quality Council; Faculty Development and Standards; Academic Assessment; and NWCCU Accreditation.

submitted by Tammy Salman

Gonzaga University

The Gonzaga library faculty have been busy working with a variety of activities and professional development activities. Highlights include:

- "Critical thinking within the library program" co-edited by **John Spencer** has been published by Routledge this spring.
- Presentation "Traveling the Information Goat Trail: serving the very distant, the involuntarily clueless and the self-described 'techno-peasants'" to the Pacific Northwest Library Association 2008 Conference by **Theresa Kappus** and **Kelly Jenks**. Their article with the same title was published in PNLA Quarterly v 73, no. 1 (Fall 2008).
- "Advancing Critical Thinking and Information Literacy Skills in First Year College Students" a chapter in *Critical Thinking within the Library Program* co-authored by **Linda Pierce** and **Kelly Jenks**, library faculty and Mark Alfino, Philosophy and Michel Pajer, English has been published.
- **John Spencer** was on sabbatical Fall semester and was working on developing the initial planning for the new learning commons that is currently being planned for the library.

submitted by Linda Pierce

University of Washington Bothell / Cascadia Community College

News

The Library celebrated the move of the **Media Collection** from the former Media Center to the Library on May 7, 2009. This is the only UW Libraries media collection housed in browsable open shelving. In the first week of the move, media circulation increased from approximately 23 items a day to more than 70 items a day.

University of Washington Information School student **Matthew Goddard** will be doing fieldwork at the UW Bothell/Cascadia Community College Campus Library during spring quarter. He will gain experience providing reference services in all formats

(in person, chat, email), collaborating with librarians and faculty to integrate information literacy instruction into courses, and will work on some special projects showcasing and using emerging technologies like Jing for on-line library tutorials.

Publications and Presentations

Kathleen DeLaurenti (Reference & Instruction Librarian) co-authored the poster "Puget Sounds: Developing Local Music Collections" with John Vallier (Head, Media Collections, Odegaard Undergraduate Library, University of Washington) and presented at the Music Library Association Conference held in Chicago, IL February 17-20, 2009. They also made a presentation on the project with Cecilia Jezek and Brandon Lax at the Association's Pacific Northwest Chapter Meeting in Seattle April 17-18, 2009.

Suzan Parker (Acting Head of Reference Services)

- co-authored with Nayer Taheri "Women and Islam" in *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* from Sage Publications.
- designed a downloadable [flyer](#) and [poster](#) outlining how librarians protect Intellectual Freedom in academic libraries. The printed versions will be distributed at the next ALA conference. Suzan is the immediate past co-chair of the ACRL Intellectual Freedom Committee, which recently launched a new blog about intellectual freedom issues in academic libraries. To join the discourse, visit the blog at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/ifc/>

Dani Rowland (Librarian Fellow) presented her poster "Digital Storytelling: Your Story, Your Students' Stories, Your Library's Story" at ACRL 2009 in Seattle, WA.

Jackie Belanger (Arts & Humanities Librarian) and **Doreen Harwood** (Business Librarian) co-presented a Round Table Discussion on *Finding Sustainable Ways to Reach More Students* at the ACRL 2009 Conference, March 14, 2008, in Seattle, Washington. Resources for Further Reading are available at <http://library.uwb.edu/guides/BusWeb/ACRLbib.pdf>

New Appointments:

Beth Sanderson, Reference & Instruction Librarian, 12/11/08 - 6/30/09

Kathleen DeLaurenti, Reference & Instruction Librarian, 9/29/08 through 6/30/09

Leslie Bussert, Acting Head of Instruction Services, 11/1/2008

Goodbyes:

Kellie Holden, Manager Budget & Operations, April 10, 2009

University of Washington Seattle

Awards and recognitions

Jill McKinstry, Director, Odegaard Undergraduate Library, is the staff winner of the David B. Thorud Leadership Award. The award honors those who lead, serve, inspire and collaborate with broad-ranging impact that is beyond their regular responsibilities.

Mary Whisner, Reference Librarian at Gallagher Law Library, is this year's Distinguished Librarian. The award recognizes excellence in librarianship, especially as it benefits the academic community through teaching, research, learning, and innovative approaches to practice.

Lisa Oberg, Staff Development Coordinator and Health Sciences Outreach Librarian, is being honored as part of the Celebrating UW Women program. The program recognizes the contributions of outstanding female students, staff and faculty members.

Judith Henchy, Head, South East Asia Section and Special Assistant to the Dean of University Libraries for International Programs, was honored with a medal and a recognition ceremony by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Vietnam for her role in managing a project to microfilm early Vietnamese print resources in the National Library of Vietnam.

Nancy Huling, Head of Reference and Research Services, has been named the 2009 recipient of the Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award. The Mudge Award is given by ALA Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) to an individual who has made a distinguished contribution to reference librarianship.

Eleanor Chase, Head, Government Publications, was named as the recipient of the Bernadine Abbot Hoduski Founders Award. The award, given by ALA's Government Documents Round Table, recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the field of state, international, local, or federal documents, benefiting not only the individual's institution but the profession as well.

Jennifer Ward, Head, Web Services, has been selected as a participant in the 2009-2010 Association of Research Libraries

(ARL) Research Library Leadership Fellows (RLLF) Program. The RLLF Program is an executive leadership program designed and sponsored by ARL member libraries that offers an opportunity for development of future senior-level leaders in large research libraries.

Publications

HSL Librarian **TerryAnnJankowski** recently received a 97 out of 100 score from Doody's book review service for her newly published book "The Medical Library Association Essential Guide to Becoming an Expert Searcher." Terry's book, which was published last year by Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc. teaches the elements of expert information searching, specifically targeted to searching the medical literature.

An article by librarians **Maureen Nolan, Lori Tschirhart, Stephanie Wright, Laura Barrett, Matthew Parsons, and Linda Whang** appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship. Their article, "Science Experiments: Reaching Out to Our Users" is featured in a theme issue on Web 2.0.

Personnel

Matt Parsons, appointed Acting Head, Map Library, 3/30/2009

Anne Zald, Head, Map Collection and Cartographic Information Services, Map Collection, resigned 3/27/09

Jennifer Fairchild, Business Reference & Instruction Librarian, Foster Business Library, resigned 3/10/09

Obituary

Betty Sunde, former Head, Business School Library, died January 7, 2009. Betty served the UW Libraries for 30 years, retiring on August 31, 1973.

submitted by Emily Keller

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University of Washington Tacoma

Presentations

Serin Anderson and **Carole Svensson**, along with Nicholas Schiller (WSU Vancouver), presented "Gaming Literate Librarians = Information Literate Students" at ACRL 2009 in Seattle. The presentation slides and a gaming bibliography are

available on Nicholas's information.games blog:
http://www.informationgames.info/blog/?page_id=118

submitted by Erica Coe

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Washington State University

Awards

The Spring Semester at the WSU Libraries signals the granting of both the Library Excellence Award and the Student Research Excellence Award.



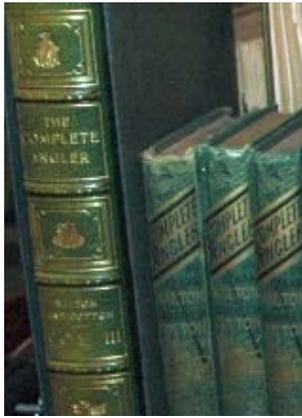
The WSU Libraries are pleased to announce Dr. Steven Hines of the College of Veterinary Medicine as the recipient of the 2009 Library Excellence Award. As a strong supporter of the Libraries, Dr. Hines was nominated by Animal Health Librarian Vicki Croft for his collaborative participation with the Diagnostic Challenges program and the Animal Health Library. The award was presented to Dr. Hines at a ceremony held on Monday April 27th, in the Terrell Library Atrium.

The recipients of the third annual Student Research Excellence Award were honored at a ceremony on April 29th, 2009, in the Terrell Library Atrium. Undergraduate students were invited to submit a research paper they had written for a WSU class during 2008, along with an essay outlining their research strategy, use of information sources and skills in evaluating sources. The first place prize of \$1000 was awarded to Ian Linde, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry and philosophy. His paper, *The Four Causes of Energy Loss during a Tennis Stroke*, was submitted for English 298, taught by Linda Kittell.

Exhibits

An opening was held on April 10, 2009 in the Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections (MASC) Department to celebrate The Gallup Collection, which includes 506 volumes of *The Compleat Angler* donated by Joan and Vernon Gallup.

The MASC



Trevor Bonds, Interim Head of MASC places some finishing touches on the exhibit

exhibit explores the ways in which *The Compleat Angler* was produced to appeal to a broad audience and showcases some of the lovely books donated by the Gallups.

As the exhibit demonstrates, *The Compleat Angler* includes something for everyone: discourses on the joys of the countryside, good company and food, beautiful poetry, and a celebration of angling and friendship.

Promotions:

The WSU Libraries are pleased to announce the following promotions, effective July 1, 2009:

- **Trevor Bond:** Interim Head of the Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections Department, promoted to Librarian 4
- **Eileen Brady:** Science and Reference Librarian, promoted to Librarian 4
- **Beth Lindsay:** Assistant Dean of Libraries, promoted to Librarian 4

Retirements

On May 28, 2009, the WSU Libraries will honor **Joan Campbell**, who is retiring after more than 25 years of dedicated service. During Joan's time at WSU, she has worked in both the Owen Science & Engineering Library and in the Animal Health Library (formerly Health Science). The WSU Libraries wish Joan all the best and many happy, happy adventures in her retirement!

submitted by Gabriella Reznowski

Western Washington University

Western Washington University Libraries partnered with Bellingham Public Library, Whatcom Community College Library, Village Books, Northwest Indian College, Whatcom County Library System and others to create Whatcom Reads! One Book Together, a community-wide reading and discussion program to encourage all Whatcom County residents to read the same book. This year's book was Sherman Alexie's, **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**.

Western Libraries sponsored a panel on March 11 of American Indian panelists from the community and from Western, who discussed the book in the context of their individual experiences. About 125 people attended with good audience participation. Many audience members mentioned on the evaluations that they were engaged and moved by the panelists comments about the challenges of being American Indian on or off the reservation.



Sherman loves Librarians!

Since Sherman Alexie has frequently participated in poetry slams, Western Libraries also sponsored a poetry slam on February 27, 2009, which featured videos of Alexie at a poetry slam. This event was attended by more than 100 people.

*Authored by Jeanne Armstrong and Paul Piper
submitted by Sylvia Tag*



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City University: Information Literacy and the Push for Curriculum Integration

Tammy Salman, Librarian, and Mary Mara, Director of Library Services

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City

University of Seattle, founded in 1973, primarily serves working adults who want to earn undergraduate or graduate degrees. There are two schools, the School of Management and the Albright School of Education, the latter of which includes the Division of Arts and Sciences.

Programs at the university are offered face-to-face, online or as a combination of the two, and they are offered in Washington and in Hawai'i as well as locations outside the United States.

Non-U.S. locations include British Columbia and Alberta; Bulgaria; Czech Republic; Greece; Romania; Slovakia; China; and Mexico . Dispersed instructional sites and the use of a variety of delivery systems are consistent with the University's mission, which is to make high quality education convenient to anyone with a desire to learn.

Setting up the Information Literacy Program

In 2003, City University of Seattle (CityU) library led a university-wide initiative to develop a curriculum-integrated information literacy (IL) instruction program. Prior to the initiative, the library's instruction program was inconsistent across programs, courses, regions, and delivery modes. The library wanted to develop and deliver a scalable instruction program in collaboration with program directors and faculty that would reach students at their point of need. The impetus for moving to this approach

came from the library's Director of Operations, who attended an ACRL IL immersion session and developed a plan for implementing an integrated model of IL instruction.

A CityU Information Literacy Task Force formed in 2003 and included faculty from each school and a representative from Canadian programs. The task force's goal was to develop a mission statement, integrate IL into CityU's learning goals, define competencies, and develop a rubric based on the ACRL information literacy model.

Mission Statement: "City University seeks to develop accomplished information users. By infusing information literacy instruction throughout the curriculum, we teach students to recognize when information is required, to find and retrieve it, to evaluate its relevance and authority, and to use it effectively. This supports the university's mission to provide high-quality learning experiences for adult learners and to develop skills for lifelong learning. The ability to use information effectively enriches our graduates' contributions to both academic and professional endeavors."

It has been approximately five years since the task force completed its goals and the university began moving toward a fully integrated IL instruction program. During that time, with the strong support of CityU administration and faculty, CityU's liaison librarians have played a significant role transforming the work of the IL Task Force from a set of documents outlining CityU's IL philosophy to substantive changes in the way CityU approaches curriculum development.

In 2005, the IL task force held a series of workshops to introduce the initiative to senior faculty across regions, including Washington, Canada and Slovakia. The workshops' objectives were three-fold: to develop an understanding of information literacy at City University; to learn about the Information Literacy Task Force and its work to date, and to review the current integration of information literacy within the academic programs. Faculty evaluations of the workshops showed that there was a desire to embed the IL competencies into the curriculum and assessments.

Role for Librarians in Curriculum Development

The IL initiative became part of the university's shift to a new curriculum development process that is based on a "backwards design" model and is driven by student learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are aligned at the university, program and course level. Two of the six CityU Learning Goals relate directly to IL: critical thinking and lifelong learning.

"City University of Seattle graduates are critical thinkers: City University of Seattle graduates are able to think critically and creatively, and to reflect upon their own work and the larger context in which it takes place. They are able to find, access, evaluate, and use information in order to solve problems. They consider the complex implications of actions they take and decisions they make."

"City University of Seattle graduates are lifelong learners: In a world where knowledge and skills must be constantly updated, City University of Seattle graduates are self-directed and information literate in seeking out

ways to continue their learning throughout their lifetimes."

Under the new curriculum process, librarians are members of program design and course development teams, as well as school curriculum councils that review and approve course documents. The librarian's role on each of these teams is to document and guide integration of IL activities across an academic program, providing opportunities for skill development that is directly related to required assessments. Librarians collaborate with faculty to identify and address gaps in IL skills.

The bulk of librarians' work is contained in instructor guides, Blackboard course shells that are generated and used for each course regardless of location or delivery format, and course resource pages that combine required and recommended resources collaboratively selected by faculty and librarians. Instructor guides include required and/or recommended learning activities and notes. Librarians have found this to be the most effective way so far to integrate collaboratively developed IL learning activities in the curriculum. We also include notes regarding library resources that instructors may find helpful as they customize a particular course.

The ultimate goal for information literacy integration is to scaffold instruction across academic programs such that graduates will have the skills and knowledge necessary to find/evaluate/use information in their profession when they no longer have access to the university's online databases and resources.

CityU librarians' specific roles on curriculum/course design teams include tracking information literacy; suggesting and planning activities; and assisting in selection of course resources.

Tracking information literacy: Librarians document information literacy concepts across courses using information literacy maps. The maps are simple charts that show correlation

between course assessments and activities, and the competencies outlined on the information literacy rubric. This allows librarians to identify courses in which IL skills are already embedded through assignments and instructor-led assessments. It also allows librarians to identify courses where there is a potential for inclusion of an activity that targets a specific IL skill, such as learning to evaluate resources based on certain criteria.

Master of Arts in Leadership

These notes indicate 'what' IL skills or tools could be integrated into courses across the MAL program. The 'how' will be decided on and developed collaboratively with curriculum development teams, if it is not already included in the course. For example, the how may include learning activities, notes to instructors via the Instructor Guide, co-facilitated Blackboard sessions, or Blackboard announcement postings pre-loaded into shells for instructors to activate when needed.

Master of Arts In Leadership Program Design Guide (200805)	Standard 1 (Find) Recognize when information is required and determine the extent of information needed.	Standard 2 (Find) Access needed information effectively and efficiently	Standard 3 (Evaluate) Evaluate information and its sources critically	Standard 4 (Use) Use information effectively.	Standard 5 (Use) Understand the ethical, legal, economic and social issues surrounding the use of information and information technology; access and use information and information technology ethically and legally.
Leading Change through Whole-systems Thinking and Coaching Core - 18 cr.					
MAL 505 Exploring Leadership CDG (200805) CG (200805)	Discussion Question Expectations announcement (200807)	Finding CEO Information in Wall Street Journal(200807) CityU Catalog (200807)	Discussion Question Expectations announcement (200807)	Emotional Intelligence Learning Activity (200807)	*Use of APA citation style assessed per rubrics (200904)

Suggesting and planning activities: Librarians' suggestions for learning activities are intended to be scalable, in that they are designed so that faculty could implement them on their own with their students or could invite librarians to help co-facilitate through the Blackboard course shells. Examples of activities used in various courses include: annotated bibliographies tailored to meet requirements of specific assignments; research skill development; tutorials; online office hours for research consultations; pre-loaded Blackboard announcements or learning units; short library orientations created by librarians and delivered online or in-person by instructors.

Assisting with resources: Librarians work with faculty to select and integrate relevant resources to support student learning. Required and recommended resources for each course are listed on a course resource page and available to students via the CityU online portal. Some faculty members have opted to use as required resources only full-text content available via online databases. In one course, the instructor opted to drop the required texts and create an online course pack of more than 40 articles.

Successes and Lessons Learned

In the years following the CityU information literacy initiative and implementation of the new curriculum development process, librarians have had some successes and learned some lessons that have helped improve their work supporting student learning.

Successes:

- Improved communication and increased collaboration between library and faculty.
- Increased awareness by faculty of the resources and services available to them and to their students.
- Shift in thinking from separate library program to fully integrated program with librarians receiving curriculum development training and providing support.
- Librarian participation in New Faculty Orientations, orienting new faculty to library resources and support available to them. Plans underway to reach existing faculty with parallel training.
- More than 60 IL-related learning activities have been developed or are in use in CityU programs.
- Nearly 100 new or revised course resource pages have been published to the online portal.

Lessons learned:

- IL integration is an ongoing, evolving process.
- Enhancing faculty understanding of librarian's role as a partner in ensuring that students have the skills to find, use and evaluate information takes time.
- Proactive in communication with faculty to ensure ongoing support is critical.
- Inadequate staffing to support simultaneous program and course revisions impedes the library's ability to achieve full IL integration.
- Distributed nature of faculty creates barriers to effective teamwork with centralized access to documents a critical factor for success.

- Variations in team membership and workflow require flexibility on the part of librarians with some programs heavily favoring face-to-face curriculum development and others favoring online or independent development models.

Conclusion

We've made significant progress over the past five years. While library expectations are high, we have learned that this process takes more time than originally anticipated but is well worth the effort. The changes in curriculum development represent a paradigm shift for the university as well as the library, and the process continues to be modified and refined to meet the needs of diverse programs and regions. Faculty who champion their experience integrating IL into their courses span CityU's schools and they speak to the value added to their curriculum through their work with the library. The library looks forward to continuing its collaborative work and to participating more actively in individual courses with faculty and students.

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EWU Libraries Partner with International Education to Kick Off International Week *by Julie Miller, Associate Dean of Libraries*

From its perch above the library lobby, the brass quintet played a march. A procession of EWU students, many in the traditional costume of their home nations, carried flags from 45 countries, filing smartly down the main staircase and around the lobby of John F. Kennedy Library and forming a line in front of the reference desk. Friends in the crowd held up cell phones and digital cameras to snap photos. This was definitely not a typical Monday afternoon in the library!



Evan Buelt, former president of the Associated Students of EWU, leads the flag procession

On November 17, 2008, EWU Libraries kicked off International Week at Eastern Washington University by hosting the second annual Flag Procession and Installation, followed by an opening ceremony with guest speakers. This year's ceremony included a welcome from Dr. Dorothy

Zeisler-Vralsted, EWU Vice President for Student Affairs, and an address by Dr. Gina Petri, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and assistant professor in Modern Languages. Dr. Petri spoke eloquently about the understanding that comes from experiencing a culture different from one's own, and she challenged those of us in the audience to get outside of our cultural comfort zones.

International Week events are coordinated by the office of International Education and have included panel discussions, international fashion shows, international films, ethnic celebrations, a model United Nations mini-conference, and the opportunity to taste the cuisines of many different countries. In addition to hosting the kick-off event, JFK Library also provides a venue for the orientation sessions to the Study Abroad At Home program offered through International Education.

EWU Libraries' participation in this event began with the international flags. Dr. Susan Hales, then director of International Education, received an EWU Diversity Grant in 2007 to purchase the flags and incorporate



Dean of Libraries Patricia Kelley welcomes everyone to the opening ceremony for International Week

them into the life of the university, "to welcome and to celebrate" our international students. She approached Dean of Libraries Patricia Kelley to house the flags at Kennedy Library. Dean Kelley not only welcomed the opportunity to display the flags, she promoted the idea of the annual flag procession as a way to engage students and to raise awareness of the International Week events.

For the past two years, staff members from International Education have recruited student volunteers to carry the flags, often pairing students with the flags of their countries of origin. The volunteers rehearse the proper way to carry the flags, making sure they don't trip on the stairs or hit the ceiling with the heavy flag standards. The library has provided a pizza lunch as part of the rehearsal. On the day of the flag procession, the staff room of the library feels like the "green room" backstage at a theater as students arrive with their traditional garb on hangers and pose for pictures with each other.

As the applause faded on that afternoon in November, the brass quintet played a recessional, and the flag bearers retraced their steps to place the flags around the second floor atria of the library. Faculty members mixed with students, administrators took a few extra minutes to catch up with colleagues, and a line began to form at the Circulation Desk. If you've ever wondered what "student engagement" looks like, join us at Kennedy Library next fall for the third annual Flag Procession. For more information, contact Julie Miller, Associate Dean of Libraries at Eastern Washington University, at julie.miller@ewu.edu.

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University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Division Launches PNW Blog

Helice Koffler, Manuscripts & Special Collections Materials Cataloging Librarian, University of Washington Libraries

The Special



Collections Division, University of Washington Libraries recently joined the growing list of special collections and archives with a presence in the blogosphere through the public launch of its first blog, [PNW Blog](#). As its name suggests, the focus of this new blog is on the materials in the Division's prestigious Pacific Northwest Collection, which houses rare books, maps, ephemera and other printed materials, as well as manuscripts and archives, which document the historic and contemporary life and culture of the region.

Although the blog only has emerged from its cocoon lately, its first post was "published" way back in August 2008. Conceived as a group blog from the beginning, after some initial planning meetings, we decided early on that the blog would be kept private until each of us had grown comfortable with posting and felt that a commitment to blogging could fit into our regular workflow and be sustained over a period of time. During the intervening months, a core group of bloggers was assembled, composed of University of Washington Libraries regular staff members and student workers involved with the acquisition, processing and description of materials for the Pacific Northwest Collection.

After seeking approval and investigating various possibilities for publishing a blog, we settled on the popular Wordpress platform and were up and running with an

experimental site within a matter of minutes. The group soon reached a consensus on the current theme, which offered some degree of customization (as well as a few quirks). Over the next few months, a slightly shifting cast of regulars contributed posts as time allowed and met sporadically to try to fine tune content and design and decide on next steps. Having reached a critical mass of posts and having gained more confidence, we agreed to proceed with a "soft" launch phase of the blog, in which we switched its privacy setting to an intermediate stage (blocking search engines, but accessible to visitors) and announced the existence of the blog at a regular Division meeting.

Currently participating in the blog are iSchool students, Edna Bastien-Wennerland and Blynné Olivieri, Accessioning Specialist, Jeni Spamer, Pacific Northwest Curator, Nicole *Bouché*, and myself. Each of us has her own valuable perspective and insights to bring to the blog. To date, several posts have discussed newly acquired or cataloged materials (such as the papers of local labor leader, Phil Lelli, or rare programs for the poultry and pigeon exhibit at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition). Other posts have included Jeni's (illustrated) account of the successful transfer of archival materials to the offsite storage facility at Sand Point last winter, Blynné's tips on preserving maps at home, and Edna's progress report on the reorganization of the map drawers in Special Collections. Looking back, it is quite interesting to see that some posts already have taken on a "historic" quality in just a matter of months.

With the "soft" launch phase now concluded, we eagerly invite you to take a look at pnwblog for yourselves. Whether you decide to bookmark the URL (<http://pnwblog.wordpress.com/>), subscribe to its RSS feed or just to visit occasionally, we hope that you will enjoy our stories about working with the Pacific Northwest Collection. We also hope that by opening up some of the "behind the scenes" at the Special Collections Division in a small way, that this blog (and future Special Collections blogs?) can become a means to engage in a new sort of dialogue with our researchers, both virtual and local.

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