

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2003

A Seattle column says "concerned parents should prefer working with a living librarian to depending on a faulty piece of software."

A Kennewick editorial opines "There is no quick fix, not for librarians, nor for citizens. The Supreme Court will not find one, either, whatever it decides about the legality of legislation mandating filters at public libraries."

In spite of cogent, logical arguments addressing the fallacies of the operating assumptions, there persists an almost innocent faith in the efficacy of filtering software by concerned citizens. It is my observation that direct intervention is not only more socially effective (there really are community standards and social conventions that moderate behavior) but certainly more cost effective.

Enclosed in your packets are the texts of three bills introduced this legislative session, Tuesday the 14th to be exact. Each has the potential, if enacted, to impact, significantly, the delivery of all public library services.

Other than that, the year is off to a busy start. Construction for Gayle's office has begun which has afforded the opportunity to effect other strategic moves. Notably the fire extinguisher will be relocated allowing us to establish a real copy center upstairs. Jennifer and Deb will have more accommodating working quarters reflecting their increased responsibilities for collection development. Sally gets a "real" desk; Katy moves into circ workroom (which makes the fire marshal far happier) and Iris moves to Gayle's old office. Relocating some of the shelving in Emma's former space has impacted operations rather favorably.

We are drafting an RFP for system migration in conjunction with Whatcom County Library System. We hope to have ready for distribution by the end of February. Speaking of systems, the system printer should be install by the end of January. Anticipating the need for more change to feed the printer and the additional workload such a need would impose on circulation clerks, we have purchased a bill and coin op changer. Both the system printer and the coin-op are scheduled for simultaneous installation.

We are also working on two library reports: a "millennial" report which will bring us through 2001 and give us an opportunity to perform a bit of trend analysis and an Annual Report for 2002. We hope to complete the Millennial Report by mid-February and the 2002 Annual Report by the end of March.

Jim Zervas has been retained to help develop a preliminary building program for the "NEW LIBRARY." Sessions with staff and board are planned. Stay tuned.