

# Change Hurts, but Revitalization is FUN!

At Central Washington University, James E. Brooks Library,  
revitalization is the name of what we do. Investing in our past is  
how we strengthen our future.

## Brooks background page 1

*Keeping the Citizens* informed resonates in the halls of the Brooks Library with renewed vitality and vigor. Under the direction of Dean Patricia Cutright and Associate Dean Michele Reilly, Central Washington University began revitalizing the library two years ago with plans to redirect library services to meet the growing demands of the 21st century which include stimulating all depository services. After the 2012 election new Congressional Districts were redrawn, these changes to depository services were reaffirmed. Outreach to partners in the community and on campus was initiated. In order to effect this change, several steps needed to take place including the hiring of a full-time, experienced depository librarian to work with the dedicated staff in Brooks Library.

## Brooks background page 2

In tandem with other changes in the library, a focus on cataloging the depository collection became forefront as the Library prepared to move to a new Knowledge Management System along with the rest of their consortium, Orbis Cascade Alliance. Also, the collection needed to be assessed critically to ensure the correct materials were being selected both electronically and tangibly. In this world where more and more depositories are looking at leaving the program, this university is looking at investing in its collections by examining if it is getting the correct material for the long term. As a result, a new position was added whose full time attention is devoted to working on depository issues.

This presentation will explore these decisions and the strategic direction of the depository for the next three years.

## CWU and Brooks Library

- Washington State Normal School in Ellensburg opened in 1891
- Benjamin Franklin Barge, first principal of the Normal School, donated his personal book collection and the first library was in the building named for him, Barge Hall.
- By 1925, so many books were gathered a new building was built. By 1950, over 90,000 volumes were collected and located in what is now Shaw-Smyser Hall.
- A new building was constructed in the 1960s named for Ellensburg banker and trustee Victor Bouillon which could hold up to 250,000 volumes.
- In 1962, CWU was designated a federal depository library
- In the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a new building was planned and in 2005, James E. Brooks Library was opened named after the President who saw the need after 50 years for a more modern building.
- After a decade, this building still needs some changes!

## A bit of depository lore

- Like many universities, CWU saw the benefits of joining the FDLP in 1962. However, politics and funding did not allow for the addition of a full-time librarian to oversee the depository operation until 1965 (*CWU Library Annual Report, 1964/1965 p.4*)
- According to this report, the daily document shipment received were:

1964		1965	
July	800	January	390
August	971	February	659
September	1,055	March	823
October	710	April	1,079
November	596	May	1,129
December	523	June	1,141
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>9,876</b>

## Compare to CWU 2014/15 selection

2014		2015	
July	236	January	342
August	465	February	462
September	402	March	644
October	523	April	426
November	429	May	603
December	583	June	558
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>5,673</b>

4,203 items fewer items distributed today than 52 years ago when CWU began serving as a federal depository!

## Government Publications, Maps & Microforms



## Government Publications, Maps & Microforms





### Storage Area

Serial Set, donations, older non-circulating materials

## Focus on Community

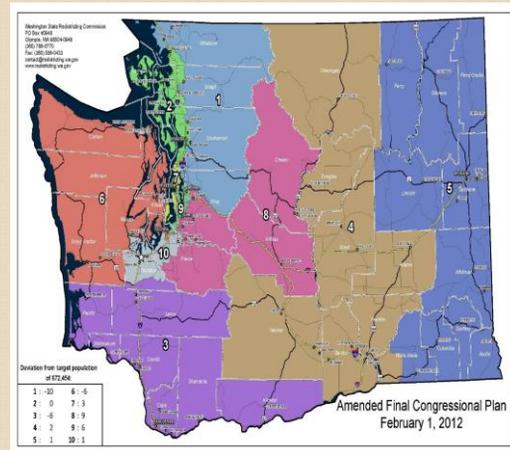
- One of the primary changes will be to focus on the community. With the election of 2012, new Congressional Districts were redrawn in Washington State. Congressional District 8 now crossed the Cascades to create a “bridge” across the state.
- To effect this change, two key positions were added to the library faculty: a Community Engagement and Outreach Librarian and a Government Publications Librarian.

# Washington's Congressional Districts

2000 Map



2012 Map



## A New Focus on Issues

- What factors are causing the collection to decline?
- What is the correct course to halt and reverse this decline?
- Do we have the correct materials to support the curriculum today and in the future?
- Will it support the community needs today and in the future?
- What are the digital space needs?
- Is the current space adequate?
- Staffing – correct staffing needs and training?



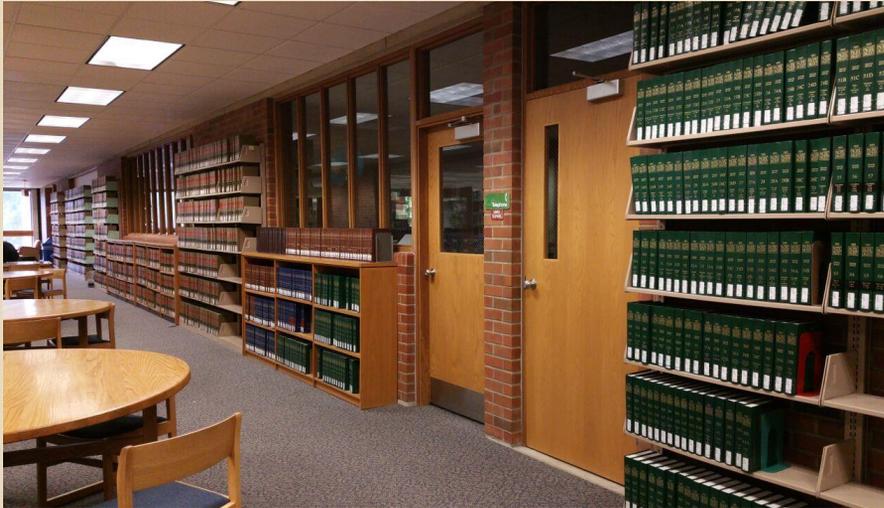
### A view to maps and state docs!

There is no GIS offered presently at Brooks Library.

## Plans for the future

- Needless to say, there have been good times in the intervening years. This depository thrived as many and the collection grew. CWU has over 600,000 items in the federal depository collection plus a growing maps, microform, electronic, and digital collections.
- With an administration who sees the value in these materials, the key now is to determine the best areas to establish strengths.
- In collaboration with other depositories and with the faculty and staff, the GPMM department started an inventory of the map collection.
- Also, a new Student Engagement & Community Outreach Librarian along with a full-time Government Publications Librarian were hired to work together to bring people into the library including on events such as the Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours hosted in the Maps Room to highlight the many resources available to small business owners in Government Publications.

## Government Publications, Maps & Microforms



## Plans for the future

- So a ten year plan is in development which include:
  - Pulling the walls down
  - Swapping collections
  - Rearranging space to highlight different collections
  - Creating a GIS area
  - Enhanced seating for group study
  - Creative commons for e-government services

## Participation, Participation

- Work with colleagues on campus
- Work with colleagues in Ellensburg
- Find Partners in the community
- Find Partners in the Congressional District
- Work with colleagues at Orbis/Cascade Alliance, NGIN, and PNLA
- Work with GODORT and GOVDOC-L colleagues
- Identify other partners
- Write grants for funding

*Thank you for your time!*

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QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD