Information Literacy in Library Spaces and Interfaces: Exploring the Libraries of Seattle

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Information Literacy in Library Spaces and Interfaces: Exploring the Public and Academic Libraries of Seattle

Megan J. Kelly
University of Washington
GA Conference on Information Literacy
October 3, 2008
“San Francisco Library Public Art Project”
Ann Chamberlain and Ann Hamilton

“Viewers gain a sense of how fundamentally different is the tactile sensation of handling catalogue cards from tapping at a keyboard to access electronic entries.”
– Joan Simon
“The overlay of written citations on the informational text of each card represents the interface of a community with a collection, and distinguishes the arbitrary accumulation of information from the process of selection, which is associated with understanding and knowledge.”

– Ann Chamberlain
“Making Visible the Invisible”
George Legrady
“Statistics”

Total Items
2005.09.12 16:40:04
12215 Total Items in circulation today
Past hour

Dewey Items
2005.09.12 16:40:04
5023 Dewey Items in circulation today
Past hour

“Floating Titles”

05:00pm
746.42222 Textile arts

- 05:01pm
- 05:01pm
- 05:01pm
- 05:02pm
- 05:02pm

Kill me kiss me Volume 1
741.59519 Drawing + drawings
“Dot Matrix Rain”

“KeyWord Map Attack”
“A building like this emphasizes the value a culture places on literacy.” – Paul Goldberger
HEADQUARTERS: dynamic workspace for the administration of the Seattle Public Library system.

READING ROOM: a place of quiet and serious study at the highest public level with views of the City.

BOOKS: houses the main collection in a continuous spiral organization allowing for it to expand and contract over time.

MIXING CHAMBER: information exchange, patron support and technology devices for resource searching.

ASSEMBLY: public meeting rooms and technology learning spaces.

LIVING ROOM: a grand Living Room for the City adjacent the lawn of the Federal Courthouse.

STAFF FLOOR: dedicated to Central Library staff, materials handling for the entire library system.

KIDS/ESL: unique Children’s Library, Auditorium & ESL collection directly accessible from entry.

PARKING: Spring Street access for over 150 parking stalls for library users.
The Book Spiral

“In 1920, the Seattle Public Library had no classification for Computer Science; by 1990, the section had exploded. As collections swell unpredictably, materials are disassociated from their categories. Excess materials are put in the basement, moved to offsite storage, or become squatters in other, totally unrelated departments.”

– Rem Koolhaas
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SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY: Major Program Space Organization.
“The four ‘unstable’ spaces in between the platforms function as trading floors where librarians inform and stimulate, where the interface between the different platforms is organized – spaces for work, interaction, and play.”

– Rem Koolhaas
University of Washington’s Suzzallo Library
Suzzallo Reading Room
“New demands are being made upon the library. The program of the modern university calls for more books, longer hours, better facilities for study, and expert guidance for readers.”

– Charles Smith, 1933
“As the intellectual and physical commons of our great University, we advance discovery and encourage the growth of knowledge. We anticipate and meet the information needs of our diverse communities, at any time and in any place. We prepare students for success in life as information-smart global citizens.”

– UW Library Vision Statement, 2006-2010
The new downtown library: designing with communities
by Shannon Christine Mathern

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Use Google Scholar to search specifically for materials held by the University of Washington. [Transcript]

Time: 01:38

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