

In bookmaking, several sheets of paper are folded, placed inside one another, and sewn together in a "signature." Just as one book is composed of multiple signatures, Colorado State University Libraries owes its excellence to multiple supporters, each of whom leaves a unique and lasting signature.

Signatures

A newsletter for friends and supporters of the Colorado State University Libraries Vol. 5, No. 2 Fall 2003



New Dean Joins CSU Libraries

From the Dean

Catherine Murray-Rust, Dean University Libraries

It is a pleasure to write my first letter to you as Dean of Libraries at Colorado State University. My decision to move to Colorado was strongly influenced by CSU Libraries' two outstanding achievements—recovering from the 1997 flood, one of the worst disasters in American research library history, and creatively using new technology to enhance library services.

The CSU Libraries today are probably very different than some of you remember. Use of electronic collections grew to 940,000 last year, triple that of the previous year. At the same time, there were 1.6 million visits to the libraries. In Morgan Library, a primary gathering place for undergraduate students, the demand for computers, especially wireless laptops, exceeds supply most days of the semester.

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Libraries supporters Betty Anne Jones and Genny Garst greet Dean of Libraries Catherine Murray-Rust (at right).

Libraries supporters convened in Morgan Library's First National Bank Gallery on September 24 to welcome new Dean of Libraries Catherine Murray-Rust.

Murray-Rust arrived at CSU from Oregon State University, where she served as associate university librarian for Public Services and Innovative Technology. As a senior administrator at Oregon State University Libraries, she played an active role in policy making, organizational planning, outreach and technological development.

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Find your invitation to join the Libraries' new Friends program on page 11.



From the Dean

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In the coming months, my colleagues and I aim to build collections, both print and electronic, to support the needs of students and faculty. We are committed to strengthening the Colorado Water Archive and the Colorado Agricultural Archive by seeking donations of private collections documenting CSU and Colorado's key role in these fields. We also are dedicated to increasing the Morgan Library Endowment to help ensure that the Libraries continue to be a vital part of academic life at the university.

I am delighted to be a part of the CSU community. If you happen to be on campus, please stop by, say hello and experience a few minutes in a bustling 21st century research library. ■

New Dean

continued from front cover

A proven leader in multiple areas of library administration, Murray-Rust is highly qualified for her position as CSU Libraries' chief administrative officer. As dean, she will establish priorities for development of collections and services, coordinate library activities with academic programs and represent and promote the Libraries on campus and beyond.

Prior to her tenure at Oregon State, Murray-Rust served for 21 years in reference services and library administration at Cornell University. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and earned her graduate degree in library and information studies at the University of London. ■

New Director of Development Combines Areas of Expertise

When CSU Libraries began the search for a new Director of Development, no one expected to find a professional fundraiser with a degree in library science. But that's exactly what the Libraries have found in Susan Hyatt.

Hyatt arrived at the Libraries in August, filling the vacant development director position in advance of the Fall semester. She relocated to Colorado from Washington, D.C., where she served as development director for American Youth Hostels. She has also worked as a development consultant for various national nonprofit organizations and has designed and taught graduate-level courses in grant writing and financial management.

Hyatt earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. With her combined

expertise in fundraising and library and museum consulting, she has served organizations such as the

National Endowment for the Arts, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art, the National Building Museum and the American Architectural Foundation.

Eager to bring together these qualifications at CSU Libraries, Hyatt is becoming acquainted with Libraries activities and supporters. She looks forward to interacting with Libraries' supporters and welcomes your suggestions and comments. You can reach her at (970) 491-6823 or via e-mail at shyatt@manta.colostate.edu. ■



Susan Hyatt

Demand for Laptops Remains Strong

In April of 2003, students checked out 5,687 laptop computers from Morgan Library's circulation desk. This number exceeded the previous record by more than 2,000 checkouts and represented an 86% increase over April 2002 circulation. Laptops are available at Morgan Library thanks to the ongoing support of donors. This fall, 40 laptops will be added to the 40 units currently in circulation.

Because the laptop program remains in such great demand, with all available units frequently checked out, the Libraries would like to purchase 40 additional laptops. If you are interested in assisting the Libraries in raising the \$70,000 needed to purchase these laptops, please contact Susan Hyatt at (970) 491-6823 or shyatt@manta.colostate.edu.

Assistive Technology Rooms Offer Privacy, Flexibility

Amy Jordan found a room of her own when she arrived on campus this fall. Jordan, a senior from Loveland majoring in music, is one of Morgan Library's assistive technology users. These users were the focus of a summer renovation project that converted four main-floor study alcoves into dedicated assistive technology rooms.

Assistive technology helps users with visual or hearing impairments, movement or strength limitations, repetitive motion injuries or learning disabilities. Morgan Library's assistive technology rooms offer dictation software, screen readers, literacy support software and a Braille embosser and Braille translation software.

"Morgan Library has offered the best assistive technology access in Colorado for at least the last five years," says Cath Kilcommons, Coordinator of Assistive Technology Support at CSU's Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC).

This technology was formerly available at three work stations housed in a single room in Morgan Library. Users with wheelchairs or guide dogs sometimes had difficulty navigating such close quarters.

The space issue was compounded by noise generated by the technology. "Someone who is using a screen reader to navigate the computer is not a complementary roommate to someone using voice input with speech-recognition software,"



Amy Jordan uses Braille software in Morgan Library while her dog, Vonda, rests nearby.



Kilcommons says. "If the third person is using another program which is reading to them through text-to-speech output, the ensuing cacophony would make it difficult for all but the most focused of users."

The renovation provided a separate space for each work station and increased the total number of stations available. The project was directed by Morgan Library's Assistive Technology Coordinator, Lindsey Wess. Wess consulted with

Kilcommons and Marla Rolls, ATRC director.

Each work station features a networked computer and printer and a specific set of assistive technology applications. The new rooms eliminate background noises and other distractions. Users are assured of privacy, yet each room offers enough space to accommodate up to three people.

Wess reports that assistive technology use has accelerated noticeably since the renovation. Students have responded favorably to the increased space and privacy and the elimination of noise interference.

Jordan, who uses a screen reading program and the Braille software and embosser, says noise from the embosser "has bothered people in the past." Now Jordan and her guide dog, Vonda, visit one of the labs for an hour or more each day without concern about noise or space limitations.

Ar Foster, a senior from Fort Collins in Creative Writing, agrees that the renovation is "a huge improvement, particularly in the areas of privacy and noise reduction.

"I walk with a cane and need to either sit with two chairs so I can elevate my legs or I need to bring in one of the large comfort reading chairs," Foster says. "This was always a problem in the other room. I can do it much more easily now."

To learn more about assistive technology and services for persons with disabilities at Morgan Library, visit the assistive technology Web page at: <http://lib.colostate.edu/reference/assist.html>. ■

We want your comments and suggestions about Signatures newsletter. Please contact:

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Water Resources Archive Takes to Road, Information Superhighway

The Water Resources Archive continues to grow through donations of additional collections. The following recently acquired collections are being processed and will be available to researchers in the next year:

Iliff and Platte Valley Ditch Company Records
Including the earliest stock certificates sold, circa 1885

Collection of Ralph L. Parshall
A graduate and later a professor of civil engineering at CSU, Parshall invented the Parshall flume, a water-flow measuring device still in use worldwide.

Larimer County Courthouse Map Collection
Approximately 300 irrigation, reservoir and other water-related maps

CSU Libraries' Water Resources Archive continues to reach new audiences, thanks to donor Marcelyn Goslin.

Goslin contributed \$10,000 to the Archive, which contains the records of key figures in Colorado water history. The Archive includes the papers of Goslin's late husband, Ival Goslin, former executive director of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority.

The Goslin donation supported the development of online finding aids using the recent nationally developed archival standard, EAD. This year, the finding aid for Ival Goslin's collection was the first in the state introduced using the standard. This year, a total of eleven of the Archive's collections were indexed online, allowing researchers to search for contents electronically. As collection processing continues, additional finding aids will be posted online.

The donation also funded production of a portable exhibit promoting the Archive. The display made its debut in June at the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities public program Water in the West, hosted at Morgan Library.



Marcelyn Goslin

The exhibit allows the Libraries to share a glimpse of the Archive on visits throughout the state.

The Archive's physical contents and the traveling exhibit, when not on the road, can be viewed at Morgan Library. The Water Resources Archive is a cooperative effort of CSU Libraries, the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute and the Colorado Agricultural Archives. For more information or to support the Water Resources Archive, please contact Carmel Bush at (970) 491-1838 or by e-mail at cbush@manta.colostate.edu. ■

Visit the Water Resources Archive's expanded Web site at <http://lib.colostate.edu/water/>

Posters Draw Crowd to Library and Web Site

More than 200 posters from all parts of the world adorned the Libraries' physical and virtual space during this fall's 13th biennial Colorado International Invitational Poster Exhibition (CIIPE).

Hosted by CSU's Department of Art, CIIPE is the only international poster exhibition held in the United States. This year's exhibition opened on September 12 and featured the works of some 100 international artists.

A satellite exhibit held in Morgan Library's First National Bank Gallery continues through December 5. The exhibit, titled "Contemporary Russian Posters: The Art of Vladimir Chaika," includes fifteen of the Moscow artist's works, recognized for their innovative use of color and type.

In addition, more than 200 recently digitized works are on display in the Libraries' online poster gallery. Receiving 400-450 hits per week, the International Poster Collection Web site offers online viewing of nearly 1,600 posters featured at CIIPE events since 1991. Physical copies of the posters



Posters on view in Morgan Library's First National Bank Gallery are the work of Russian artist Vladimir Chaika.

are archived at Morgan Library, along with selected posters from exhibitions hosted prior to 1991.

If you would like to help the Libraries fund additional poster digitization, please contact Susan Hyatt at (970) 491-6823 or by e-mail at shyatt@manta.colostate.edu. ■

*View the International Poster
Collection Web site at
[http://lib.colostate.edu/
posters/](http://lib.colostate.edu/posters/)*

Signatures



Mouse image: www.freeimages.co.uk

Signatures Now Available Online

Beginning with this issue, the Libraries will publish an electronic version of *Signatures* along with the print version. The online newsletter features colored photographs and will soon include links related to article contents.

You may request to receive *Signatures* via e-mail as an alternative to a paper copy. Your request will help the Libraries save paper and postage and will allow you to read *Signatures* as soon as each issue is complete and to bookmark the

newsletter for future reading.

To join our electronic newsletter list, please contact Kim Kankiewicz at kkankiew@manta.colostate.edu. The list will not be distributed outside the Libraries and will only be used for Libraries information distribution.

The electronic newsletter is available in PDF format on our Web site at <http://lib.colostate.edu/develop/newsletter/>. Past issues of our newsletters will soon appear online as well. ■



Faculty and Staff Spotlight

Awards and Recognition

George Jaramillo, Assistant Dean of Administrative Services, was appointed Chair of the American Library Association (ALA) Publishing Committee for 2003-2004. The committee sets the framework for ALA publishing by recommending policies on products and services, including use of the ALA logo.

Jennifer Kutzik, General Professional II, was one of 150 delegates invited to assist the ALA in developing action items for recruitment, retention, training and compensation of library support staff. In addition, Kutzik received a one-year appointment to the ALA's Minority Scholarship Committee.

Michelle Mach, Digital Projects Librarian, was recognized as a Special Friend to the Office of Black Student Services. Jennifer Williams Molock, Director of Black Student Services, stated in a letter of commendation: "Over the years you have demonstrated a sincere commitment to providing our office with prompt and often expeditious service for our student needs. You have often gone above and beyond the call of duty in the role you play with our office and our students."

Articles and Presentations

Dawn Bastian, Coordinator of Bibliographic Control and Electronic Services: "Creating a Digital Services Team at Colorado State University: A Collaborative Effort Among Departments" in *Colorado Libraries* 29(3).

Joan Beam, Reference Librarian, and **Barbara Branstad**, retired CSU Libraries Reference Librarian: *The Native American in Long Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography: supplement 1995-2002*, Scarecrow Press.

Nancy Chaffin, Assistant Professor and Metadata Librarian, and **Pat Smith**, Acquisitions Services Coordinator: "Education and Training for Technical Services: A Brief Look" in *Colorado Libraries* 29(2).

Donnice Cochenour, Serials Librarian, and **Tom Moothart**, Reference Librarian: "E-journal Acceptance at Colorado State University: A Case Study" in *Serials Review* 29(1).

Allison Cowgill, Coordinator of Information and Reference Services: Presentation at the ALA Annual Conference program, "Take Ownership of Technology Before It Takes Ownership of You."

Kate Cunningham-Hendrix, Reference Librarian: As a lead panelist at the Art Libraries Society of North America West Conference, a presentation on CSU Libraries' International Poster Collection.

Jim Farmer, Coordinator of Access Services: "It's Not Heloise, But We Keep Prospector Helpful! The Colorado's INN-Reach Document Delivery Committee's Collaborative Efforts and Results" in *Colorado Libraries* 29(1).

Jennifer Kutzik, General Professional II: "It's EGATS All Over Again: Behind the Scenery in Reference Services" in *Library Mosaics* 14(2).

"(It's Not in Our Nature, But) Show us the Money \$\$," with Janet Lee, in *Colorado Libraries* 29(1) and in *Library Mosaics* 14(4).

"Support Staff from United States and Canada Make Connections in Toronto" in *Library Mosaics* 14(5).

Presentation at the ALA Annual Conference: Summary of the ALA's "Third Congress on Professional Education: Focus on Library Support Staff."

Allison Level, Reference Librarian: Chair of pre-conference committee and Collection Development Interest Group and presentation at the United States

continued on next page

Agricultural Information Network national conference: "Citation Linker, SFX, and MetaLib."

Michelle Mach, Digital Projects Librarian, and **Lori Oling**, Reference Librarian: "The Reality of Virtual Tours in ARL Libraries" in *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* 7(4).

Pat Smith, Acquisitions Services Coordinator, with Margo Sasse: "Automated Acquisitions" in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, second edition.

Julie Wessling, Assistant Dean for Public Services: "When Funding Gets Tight, Invest in User-Selected Stocks" in *Colorado Libraries* 29(3).

Julie Wessling and **Tom Delaney**, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator: "RAPID: A New Level of Collaboration for ILL" in *Colorado Libraries* 29 (1).

The following CSU Libraries staff presented at the Colorado Association of Libraries Fall 2003 Conference: Dawn Bastian, Nancy Chaffin, Mike Culbertson, Jennifer Kutzik, Diane Lunde, Patrick McCarthy, Tami Morse-McGill, Bonnie Mueller, Dennis Ogg.

Retirements

Atmospheric Science Branch Librarian **Fredi Boston** retired after 22 years of service to CSU Libraries. Boston began working at the Libraries in 1981 in the Acquisitions department. She also worked in the Serials department before beginning her Branch Library responsibilities in 1984.

After 27 years of service to CSU Libraries, **Maryann Snyder** will retire from her position in Bibliographic Control and Electronic Services. Snyder began her tenure with the Libraries in the Catalog department in 1976 and has also worked in Circulation. ■



More than 40,000 students entered Morgan Library during this semester's first week of classes. Here, two of those students find a quiet place to study on the third floor.

Save the Date

The Libraries' third annual *Tables of Content* banquet is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2004. The event will feature table hosts from diverse fields leading discussions on their areas of expertise. A full-course gourmet meal will accompany the conversation. Watch for your invitation in the spring.



Table host and author Steven Schwartz leads a discussion at the 2002 *Tables of Content* banquet. Photo © 2002 Photographic Services/CSU



From the Pages of History . . .

Student employees at CSU Libraries



Students assist librarian Charlotte Baker at the circulation desk in 1929.

*We are looking for
anyone who has served
the Libraries as a
student employee.
If you can help us,
please contact
Kim Kankiewicz
at (970) 491-5712 or
kkankiew@manta.
colostate.edu.*

Ever since CSU Libraries expanded beyond a one-person undertaking more than 100 years ago, student employees have served an important role in library operations.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, solo librarian Joseph Daniels instituted an apprentice system that introduced students to library work. Students were the first people to work alongside the campus librarian, assisting with accessions, inventories, bookbinding and janitorial work. Though their training was informal, several of Daniels' students obtained library jobs after graduation.

The Library employed eleven students in 1931, each of whom earned ten dollars a month. The number of student employees increased throughout the Depression era through funding by Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs. In 1935, fifteen students working under

National Youth Administration (NYA) authority provided 409 hours of labor each month. As many as 21 NYA students worked for the Library in 1937, facilitating publication of a newsletter called *The Scout* and establishment of a courier service to faculty members.

In the years following, student employees have continued to play an active role in CSU Libraries' daily activities. Today, more than 100 student workers provide 1,500 to 2,000 hours of labor each week at Morgan Library. Their duties vary greatly and include checking out and shelving books, answering phones and opening and sorting mail, taking care of plants, maintaining PC hardware and software and designing and developing Web pages.

Stacie Lukas, a junior from Wray, Colorado, is a receptionist and office assistant in Morgan Library's Administrative Services department. Lukas says she appreciates Morgan Library's upbeat atmosphere and enjoys interacting with the Library's visitors and callers. Even in her third year on the job, however, Lukas has become acquainted with only a fraction of the Library's student employees. "There are so many students working here," Lukas says. "It would be fun to know more of them."

The Libraries would like to give Lukas and other student employees, past and present, an opportunity to meet. Early planning for a student employee reunion is underway. If you or someone you know served the Libraries as a student employee, please contact Kim Kankiewicz at (970) 491-5712 or kkankiew@manta.colostate.edu. ■



Two ways to...

Leave a lasting signature

Create a Library endowment. You can do this now with cash or stock or later with an estate gift. Your fund will make a lasting difference to CSU students and faculty by producing income every year for the purpose you choose.

Leave a bequest. Designate an amount or percentage of your estate for a specific purpose or for unrestricted use. Your legacy will benefit Library users now and for generations to come.

For more information, contact **Susan Hyatt** at (970) 491-6823 or by e-mail at shyatt@manta.colostate.edu

Dr. Book, continued from back page

becomes yellowed. If you visit flea markets with large paperback collections, you will find most volumes to be in various stages of embrittlement. Your novel should have a much longer life so you will have plenty of time to read it again and again.

If you buy a novel without the infinity symbol, that does not necessarily mean your volume is acidic. Chlorophenol red felt-tipped pens are widely used for testing the surface pH of paper. Although

the pens will not determine the actual pH value, they will indicate whether the paper is neutral, acidic or alkaline. I have found pH pens for sale along with scrapbook materials in craft and hobby stores.

To use a pH-testing pen, make a small mark on a page. Since the pen will leave a permanent stain, select an unobtrusive part of the book. At CSU Libraries we mark inside the "0" of the "50" page number. Read the mark as soon as it has dried. If the mark turns purple, the paper is neutral or alkaline. If the mark turns yellow or green, the paper

is acidic. (The small mark may be difficult to see on aged or colored paper.) You can use the pH testing pen to verify the alkaline nature of paper identified by the publisher as acid-free.

For additional information on acid-free paper, conservation of acidic paper materials or preservation in general, please write to "Dear Dr. Book" in care of *Signatures*, Colorado State University Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523 or visit the Libraries' Preservation Services Web site at: <http://manta.library.colostate.edu/preserv/>. ■

A Winning Partnership Continues

Norlarco Credit Union has teamed up again with CSU Libraries, CSU Athletics and Poudre School District (PSD) to benefit area students. Through the Read to Win, Win to Read program, Norlarco donates \$600 for every touchdown scored and \$250 for every home match victory for the CSU women's volleyball team.

The money is distributed among the Libraries, CSU Athletics and PSD and is used to fund library resources, athletic scholarships, and reading programs. This year, the Libraries' portion of the Norlarco donation will help fund exhibits at the Libraries. Thank you, Norlarco! ■



Favored Companions

"A good book is the best of friends, the same today and forever."

–Martin Tupper, essayist

"Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep, for your habits and character will be as much influenced by the former as the latter."

–Paxton Hood, author



Mark Driscoll

Like other favored companions, great books are forever part of those who encounter them. In this new column, we ask participants to name the book or books that have made the greatest impact in their lives. Our first entry comes from Mark Driscoll, Colorado State University Director of Athletics:

I did not grow up reading much. In the 60's, television became widespread in American homes. Our family had the television on just about every waking hour of the day. With eight active children, my parents had a challenge maintaining sanity in the household. Television, as it unfortunately is today, was a great babysitting tool for my parents.

My life changed in the sixth grade, however. Our teacher would read to us every day for a few minutes right before recess. I don't recall the names of the books or much about the stories, but I do clearly remember that my attitude toward books and reading changed during that year. Early in high school, we were asked to read a number of the Great Books as part of an English class. One book I chose was *War and Peace* (an abridged version). Once again, my recall of the story is thin, but I remember the great satisfaction I felt in just completing that book! A love of reading has been part of my life from that time through today.

It is a simple choice for me to identify the book that has most greatly influenced my life. That book is the Bible. As a committed Christian, the Bible is the foundation of my personal faith. By studying the

Bible, one can understand the origin of life and the incredible diversity of God's creation, why people are the way they are, and the answer to all of life's great questions. For the Christian, the basis of our theology is developed and a hope for the future confirmed. There is no other book that has even approached the influence the Bible has had on my life. I find the Bible relevant, challenging and full of answers.

I enjoy reading business books, biographies, Bible-related books and other non-fiction. Reading is one of the great pleasures of life; books are one of life's great treasures. ■

Signatures

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Become a Friend of CSU Libraries

friend \ 'frend \ n [akin to OE freon to love] **1** : one attached to another by affection or esteem **2** : a favored companion

You've discovered favored companions on library shelves—books that entertain, inspire, educate and change the way you look at the world. Now Colorado State University Libraries extends you an opportunity to become a favored companion of the Libraries.

Friends of CSU Libraries begins its charter year in January, 2004. Members are library supporters who know that the Libraries are central to the University's intellectual vitality. Friends demonstrate a commitment to the University through donations of \$35 or more to the Libraries and through participation in Libraries activities.

Members will receive invitations to three Friends events each year. Among the programs we hope to

offer are workshops on preserving family photographs, author readings, grant writing workshops and planned giving seminars. Members also will receive advance invitations to the Libraries' annual *Tables of Content* banquet and a discounted subscription rate to the *Colorado Review*, the literary magazine published by Colorado State University's Center for Literary Publishing. And most importantly, Friends of CSU Libraries, through their volunteer and monetary contributions, provide ongoing support for CSU Libraries' efforts to provide outstanding service to our students, faculty and community.

Four levels of membership are offered to Friends of CSU Libraries:

- **Basic:** Annual membership for individuals donating \$35 or more or couples donating \$50 or more.

- **Donor:** Annual membership for individuals or couples donating \$100 or more.
- **Patron:** Annual membership for individuals or couples donating \$250 or more.
- **Charter:** Inaugural year membership for individuals or couples donating \$500 or more.

Members who enroll at the Donor level or higher will receive an attractive brass bookmark, custom designed to represent CSU's Morgan Library. Charter members who donate \$500 or more will be recognized in a personalized message stone displayed in Morgan Library.

To join Friends of CSU Libraries, please complete the registration form below. For more information, contact Susan Hyatt at (970) 491-6823 or by e-mail at shyatt@manta.colostate.edu.



Reserve your charter Friends membership.

Identify yourself as a favored companion. Your 2004 membership donation is eligible for tax deduction and is an investment in the future of Colorado State University and its Libraries.

Yes, I/we would like to join the Friends of CSU Libraries

with a contribution of: \$35 (Basic) \$50 (Couple)
 \$100 (Donor)* \$250 (Patron)* \$500 (Charter)*

This gift is from me my spouse and me.

Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Home Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail Address _____

* Couples donating \$100 or more receive joint membership.

Enclosed is my additional donation of \$ _____ to support: Morgan Library Endowment (45115) Areas of greatest need (14463)

I would like to help with Friends events in the following areas: Planning Mailings Phone calls Set up

Other _____

My suggestions for future events/speakers/programs: _____

Method of Payment:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____.

Please make your check payable to the *Colorado State University Foundation*.

Please charge this contribution in the amount of \$ _____.

MasterCard VISA

Card Number _____ Expires _____

Name on Card _____

Cardholder Signature _____

I would like to receive information about remembering CSU Libraries in my will.

Please return forms to: Colorado State University Foundation, 410 University Services Center

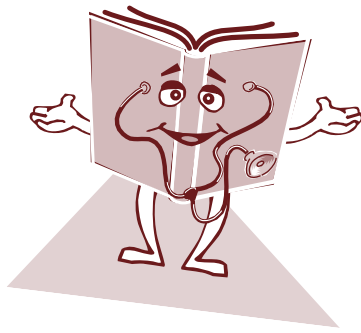
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55173/M0402

Dear Dr. Book,

Dear Dr. Book,
On the back of the title page of a recently purchased novel, I noticed a symbol of two small adjacent circles inside a larger circle. What does this mean? And is it important?
Curious Reader

Dear Curious Reader,
The “∞” symbol you describe is the infinity symbol, used to indicate that the paper is acid free. The infinity symbol may accompany a statement that the paper meets the minimum requirements of the American National Standard for Information



Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials. If paper does not meet these standards but is known to be acid free, the phrase “Printed on acid-free paper” is used. And yes, it is important.

One of the biggest detriments to paper’s durability is acidity, which causes embrittlement and deterioration. Acidic paper results from the use of inherently acidic wood pulp and the addition

of chemicals during the manufacturing process. Deterioration of paper is indicated by a yellow to brown discoloration, first noticeable around the margins and working its way to the center of the page. Over time the paper becomes more fragile, with pieces of it breaking off from normal wear and tear. As the process continues, entire pages may break off from the book along the inner edge, leaving a book with many loose pages. Eventually the paper takes on a “potato chip” appearance, breaking into little pieces when crumpled.

Over the past twenty years more paper mills have converted their processes

to produce acid-free paper. This paper is very popular with librarians, conservators, archivists and others who work with the preservation of paper products. In 1990 the State of Colorado passed a law calling for “the use of acid-free, alkaline-based, or permanent type paper in certain government publications” to ensure the increased longevity of its archival records and publications (Senate Bill 90-78).

Simply stated, acid-free or alkaline paper will last longer than acidic paper. Compare your novel with an older mass-market paperback printed on acidic paper which quickly

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Knowledge to Go Places

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**You can receive future issues of
Signatures in electronic form!**

See page 5 for details.