WHAT’S NEW
Lynnwood Library held its grand opening for the Creative Commons on November 9th. Customers had several product and service demonstrations to choose from throughout the day, as well as an opportunity to have their portraits taken using the library’s green screen kit. Staff then took the photos and superimposed special backgrounds on to them: Voilà, customers found themselves depicted at the Great Wall of China or in front of the Eiffel Tower. The day served as a good way to generate interest in the new resources. Staff members have subsequently developed step-by-step outlines on working with graphics programs, downloading digital content and converting analog media (such as cassette and VHS tapes, and film slides and negatives) to newer more stable digital formats. The outlines serve as a good basis for staff who are now scheduling classes – for both individual and group instruction. The “Tech Monday” classes have proven popular, with the greatest number participating in digital downloading classes. As has been true in the past, many people brought in their holiday gift gadgets to learn how they can load library content – books, music, videos and more, all available at no additional cost.

In the two months since the grand opening, customers have also greatly increased their use of portable equipment within the library – laptops, iPads, digital storage devices, etc. The flexibility this gives customers – to sit anywhere in the building and use the wireless network – has been a real selling point.

Lynnwood Library received three calls from customers applying for work with Premera Blue Cross on November 21. The health insurance company based in Mountlake Terrace conducts many of its interviews using HireVue (www.hirevue.com) – a Skype-like software that allows for offsite interviews. Having anticipated the need for this service, staff members were prepared to assemble the necessary equipment and test the software to make sure we were ready for the job applicants when they came in the following day. In helping one of the customers, Sarah Zabel related that she “was especially grateful for having space to do this away from her 3-year-old son, who would have undoubtedly become an unexpected part of the interview.”

The annual “Best Book I Ever Read” awards ceremony on November 16 was very successful this year, drawing over 250 participants. Author Julie Paschkis gave a thought-provoking presentation, encouraging parents to let their kids get bored once in a awhile rather than always be pre-scheduled with activities. She pointed out that this stimulates a child’s inner creativity and artistic abilities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Over the course of November and December, Michael Delury met with representatives from City of Lynnwood, Edmonds Community College, the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County and the Small Business Development Center to promote some of the existing business databases as well as the library’s new equipment and software.

FACILITIES
A small punch-list of items was completed in November as a follow up to the renovation. The new furniture and carpeting is holding up well, and staff and custodial services are doing their best to address the use it gets on a daily basis. Thanks again to Facilities Manager Brian Rush for coordinating all of the work and brightening up the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Delury,
Managing Librarian