Raising awareness of the Kitsap Regional Library’s Digital Archive

On March 30th, 1942, The Japanese-American residents of Bainbridge Island were incarcerated for crimes that they did not commit. This was a shock to a community who did not agree with the description of their fellow islanders as aliens, but as their friends, neighbors, lovers, classmates, and family.

Throughout the war, the Bainbridge Review was the only paper in the US to continually condemn the incarceration, and they published letters and photos from the camps, giving it a unique historical voice.

So that the events that occurred on the island would not be forgotten, in 2012, the Bainbridge Public Library and the people of Bainbridge Island began working on creating a digital archive of the Bainbridge Review between 1941 to 1946.

My project was to increase awareness and usage of the archive so that it could be discovered by all.

While the initial idea of this project was to simply discover interested parties and contact them, I recognized that it would be important to focus my energies on contacting organizations and individuals that would include the archive’s materials into their works and directly link to it, guaranteeing that the archive would be utilized beyond the people I met with.

Additionally, I researched how the archive could be improved upon that would increase its ability to be utilized.

Due to my efforts, information about the digital archive and/or its contents are now or soon will be included in/on:

- Teaching curriculums at multiple schools
- Libguides at multiple universities & public libraries
- Museum websites
- Museum library resources
- Research initiatives based around the history of the Japanese-American incarceration
- Social justice group websites
- Multiple nationwide library associations
- Inclusion in history based newsletters
- The knowledge-base of countless librarians