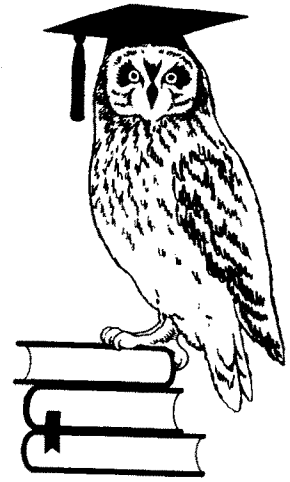


June 20, 2002

Judith Friedrich
Bibliographic Services Librarian
Hennepin County Library
12601 Ridgedale Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55305



Judith Friedrich:

Having lately read John Mangels and Scott Stephens' "Intelligent Design Crusader Keeps Campaigning" in the Star Tribune (attached) and watched several TV segments on the current campaign to promote "Intelligent Design" as an alternative to evolution, I made a subject search in HCL's online catalog and found nothing (the closest subject heading was INTELLIGENT MACHINES). I then performed a keyword search and did unearth three relevant titles, together with four false drops (i.e., unrelated garbage). While all three works deal explicitly with "Intelligent Design," none were assigned a subject tracing for that topic. I've since discovered that the Library of Congress (LC) itself has thus far failed to recognize that concept and controversy--despite abundant "literary warrant"--with the unfortunate result that ID material is unreachable by subject-searching library catalogs, nor can a user find any catalog-based explanation of what it means or be directed to ID and cognate information through appropriate cross-references.

This situation does not represent good public service. And undermines the library's central role as a "bulwark of democracy," readily providing access to disparate resources on contemporary issues. I therefore recommend that HCL continue its innovative, pacesetting tradition of subject cataloging by:

+Immediately establishing a new descriptor, replete with public note and both "see" and "see also" references:

Intelligent design.

cn Authority: "'Intelligent design' and public schools: covert evangelism?," Church & State, v. 55, no. 5 (May 2002), p. 14; "Intelligent design? (Special report)," Natural History, v. 111, no. 3 (April 2002), p. 73+; Reginald Fields, "Ohio educators consider discounting Darwin's theory of evolution in favor of 'intelligent design,'" Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service, March 12, 2002, p. K7887; Francis C. Clines, "Ohio board debate on an alternative to Darwinism: 'intelligent design'....," New York Times, March 12, 2002, p. A16; Neil S.

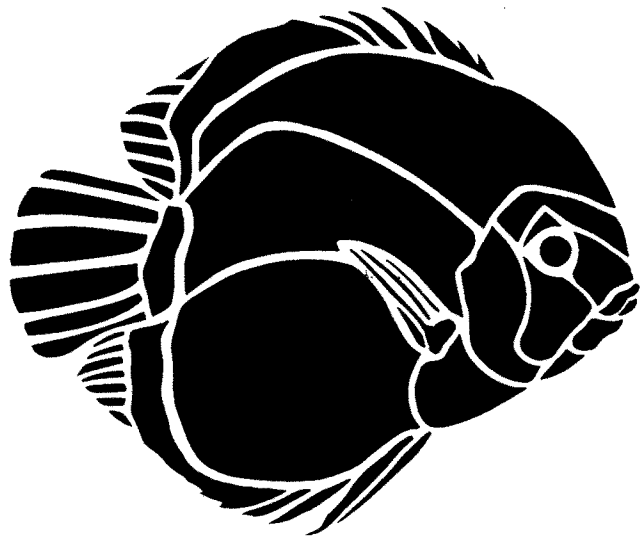
Greenspan, "Not-so-intelligent design," Scientist, v. 16, no. 5, p. 12+; Massimo Pigliucci, "Design yes, intelligent no: a critique of intelligent design theory and neocreationism," Skeptical Inquirer, v. 15, no. 5 (September 2001), p. 34+; Richard Brookhiser, "Intelligent design," National Review, v. 53, no. 1 (January 22, 2001), p. 56; Edward B. Davis, "Debating Darwin: the 'intelligent design' movement," Christian Century, v. 115, no. 20 (July 15, 1998), p. 678+; various Internet sources and websites (Google checklist attached).

pn Here are entered materials on the theory that the complexity of life arose by the design of an unnamed, intelligent being.

sa Creationism
Naturalism
Religion and science

sf ID
IDC
Intelligent design creationism
Intelligent design theory
Neocreationism
Theistic design

xx Biology--Philosophy
Cosmology
Creationism
Earth--Origin
God--Proof
Life--Origin
Naturalism
Religion and science
Science--Philosophy



+Retroactively applying INTELLIGENT DESIGN to:

*Michael J. Behe's Darwin's black box: the biochemical challenge to evolution (1996), which includes "Intelligent design."

*Robert T. Pennock's Intelligent design creationism and its critics: philosophical, theological, and scientific perspectives (2001).

NOTE: Several currently-assigned tracings (e.g., CREATIONISM, RELIGION AND SCIENCE, and SCIENCE--PHILOSOPHY) could be deleted, although access to this weighty (805-page) volume would be enhanced by making added entries for such significant contributors as Stephen Jay Gould, Phillip E. Johnson, Michael J. Behe, Richard Dawkins, and Howard J. Van Till.

*William A. Dembski's Mere creation: science, faith & intelligent design (1998).

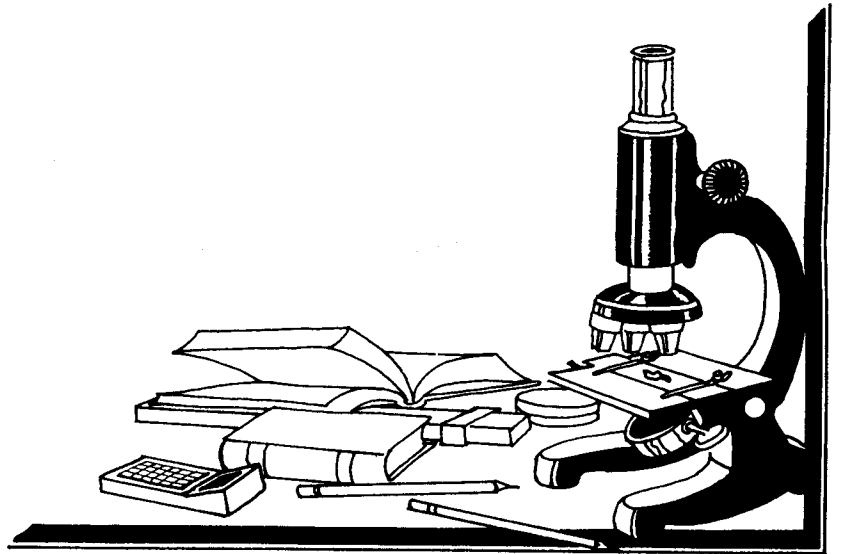
NOTE: Suggest dropping two presently-applied headings: SCIENCE--PHILOSOPHY and RELIGION AND SCIENCE.

With best wishes,

Sanford Berman
Former Head Cataloger
Hennepin County Library

4400 Morningside Road
Edina, MN 55416

cc: C. Brown
R. P. Johnson
M. Opat
T. Yee (Library of Congress Cataloging Policy and Support Office)





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