

## **FACILITIES AND OTHER RESOURCES**

**Description of the Scientific Environment:** The University of Washington, one of the largest institutions of higher education in the West is recognized for the excellence of its academic programs, research contributions, and public service. It is located in King County, an area of approximately 1.9 million people, and has an enrollment of 46,000 students. Many of the over 4,000 teaching and research faculty are known nationally and internationally for their accomplishments. The University libraries, with more than 5 million volumes, provide an outstanding collection of books, periodicals, research reports, publications, and other materials.

**Computer Resources:** All computing resources at the UW are accessible through the university's ubiquitous digital communications network. These resources include, in aggregate, thousands of clustered server computers at the central UW computing site, and at other sites campus-wide. These servers support administrative, bibliographic, and research-oriented information resources. Additionally, Unix-based computational resources and internet-oriented services, such as electronic mail and extensive World Wide Web development and hosting, are provided both locally and via the UW network central resources. A combination of central and departmental staff provides an extensive range of support services for computing and networking at the UW. In addition to electronic mail and web browsers, standard office applications software such as word processing, spreadsheets, presentation graphics are available on essentially all PCs. Secure file sharing and database services as well as statistical analysis software are provided throughout the participating schools and departments to authenticated workstations. Servers are located within controlled access, high quality, high capacity server facilities maintained by UW campus computing resources. In-house information technology staff maintains and support these servers as well as desktop/laptop PC users throughout the UW computing environment. UW faculty and staff PC workstations can easily and securely access centrally and locally supported research-oriented facilities which include statistical analysis and data management software packages, such as SPSS, SAS, STATA, R, ArcGIS, PostgreSQL/PostGIS, LISREL, S-PLUS, COHEN, AXUM, EGRET, Atlas.ti, NUDIST, and EndNote.

### **Urban Form Lab (UFL)**

The Urban Form Laboratory (UFL) has collected a large database of integrated geospatial data for the Puget Sound Region and Washington State to support research on the built and social environments. Many of the data sets were originally obtained from public sources, including census information; parcel-level property value; land use and built environment data; transportation network characteristics of infrastructure, traffic, and transit data; and, open space and recreation facilities. With substantial reprocessing, these data have become standardized and compatible for application in a variety of studies addressing topics such as neighborhood walkability, pedestrian safety, and the relationship between the urban environment and physical activity and food environments.

The laboratory has 10 computers and several servers. Dr. Hurvitz is Research Associate Professor and Director of Informatics within the group, which is directed by Professor Emerita Anne Moudon. In addition, the UFL is staffed by two doctoral students. It is located in the Washington State Transportation Center at the University of Washington (TRAC-UW), which has administrative staff and one computer technician and programmer providing support dedicated to research, and in the UW College of the Built Environments, which has four full-time computer technicians providing support for faculty and students within the college, including staff of the UFL.