Alumni, parents, and friends of the Penn Libraries have long supported the research mission of the University by establishing endowments to build the Libraries’ collections of books and other information resources. In the past, one would have to visit the library and take a book off the shelf in order to see a bookplate and identify the generous individual who enabled a particular purchase. But a new Penn Libraries stewardship initiative applies web technology to allow donors and patrons alike to access this information from remote locations, including their own home computers.

A unique electronic bookplate recognizing the individual who funded the purchase of a particular resource is now embedded in the online catalog record for that item. A list of titles purchased through a particular endowed fund can be accessed through a link on the fund’s stewardship web page, or via a search in Franklin, Penn Libraries’ online catalog.

Although electronic bookplating is an emerging trend among academic libraries, by linking the bookplate of an individual resource to the stewardship web page of the endowed fund used to purchase it, Penn Libraries have added a new dimension of functionality.

Lists of titles purchased through endowed funds in FY08 are currently available, and the Libraries are working to include e-bookplates for titles purchased since 1997.

See an example of a donor webpage at: http://www.library.upenn.edu/portal/Garfield/Garfield.html

See an example of e-bookplates by searching a fund in the Franklin catalog: http://www.franklin.library.upenn.edu sample keyword search: “Glossberg Fund”