

**Maurice C. King
Deputy Chief
Technical Services Bureau**



The Technical Services Bureau provides many diverse services to the entire department, other law enforcement and government agencies, and members of the general public. These services include information technology, employee training and development, emergency communications, and criminal history.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

In June of 2002, the Crime Laboratory Division purchased a set of traceable, certifiable fibers from MICROTRACE. They began to analyze the unique microscopic characteristics of these hundreds of fibers, but they needed a way to organize and quickly retrieve information they gathered. Ken Keiper and Melissa Strickland, Information Technology Division (ITD) programmers, began working closely with Ron Wojciechowski, Tacoma Crime Laboratory, to create a Microsoft Access database that would fit the need. The final product, called the Fiber Reference Collection Database, will be updated with additional fiber samples as they are collected. The database features the ability to record and retrieve information as well as compare information between cases to find similar fibers found in other unsolved crimes.

QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

Word of the database spread, and in April 2002, Mr. Keiper demonstrated the database to representatives from five states (Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, and Utah). Each representative requested and was given a copy of the database for use in their crime laboratories.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

So the next question was asked—can this tool be used for other purposes? The team made a few modifications and produced a new database for tracking the large amount of fiber evidence specific to the Green River Killer case. The Tacoma Crime Laboratory used this database exclusively and it was a big success.

News of the Green River fiber database was passed by word of mouth. Soon the King County Green River Homicide investigation team requested copies of the database. The Washington State Patrol was happy to provide these resources, which will be modified to fit the task force's needs.

By putting today's technology to use and sharing resources, great progress is being made in solving real-life crimes.

