The Zimmerman Fire: (re)collections

Deborah A. Cole
Fire/Watch Book Group

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As I was drifting off to sleep, I heard sirens at 10:30 or 11-ish. I remember thinking, “Oh dear, somebody is having a bad day.”
Phone rings. It's late. After 11 p.m. This can't be good.

My grandma called me on the phone and told me to turn on the television news.
... it was probably about 1:30 a.m. when I was awakened by a phone call. You know this is not going to be good news.

George and I were asleep. We got a call at one-thirty, quarter-to-two ... you know how when you’re in a dead sleep and the phone’s ringing ... there’s nothing good to come out of anything like that. I really thought there had been a death in the family.

Neely called me at four in the morning, so I assumed someone had died.

I arrived at four in the morning. It just broke my heart. This place is like my second home.

I was due in for work that Monday morning at 8:00. I turned on the news while getting ready and there were news cameras and all. So I was really confused about whether I should go to work, whether I could get into work. I was trying to call people. I first heard about it probably around six in the morning or so.
As I was walking to campus that morning, I smelled smoke but it was neither here nor there ... Coming around the other side of the building, though, by the President's House, everything was blocked off and I saw fire trucks ... I was informed by a police officer that there'd been a fire in Zimmerman. Walking off campus, I picked up a copy of The Lobo and realized there had been, in fact, a fire at Zimmerman.

AARON BLECHA, STUDENT EMPLOYEE

I got a voice-mail on my cell phone ... that Nancy Dennis had left around 6:00 a.m. to tell me there'd been a fire and not to go to Zimmerman and to call my team.

TWILA FIRMATURE, E-RESOURCES

I was just flapping in; I think I had on flip-flops. You know, it was warm and you could just kind of relax. There was security right at Roma and Yale. They weren't stopping you, but they were there. And I thought, "What?" but I walked on by.

EVANGELA OATES, LIBRARY RESIDENT

I was at home taking annual leave ... I first saw it on the news on Monday. The next day Randy called me and said, "I suppose you saw it on the news."

JOE LANE, INTERLIBRARY LOAN

I was getting ready for work when Randy called me and said, "I suppose you saw it on the news." And I said, "What?" And he said, "Don't come in." I was just looking out the window on flip-flops. You know, I got it in my head you could just kind of relax and there was security right at Roma and Yale and you weren't stopping me, so what? "But I walked on by.

KATHRYN WOOD, INTERLIBRARY LOAN

I don't listen to the news in the morning so I didn't hear about it until I got off the shuttle at the Duck Pond. I started seeing the yellow caution tape as I walked toward the library and couldn't get close to the library. I was wondering what to do as a student. I got to work and somebody said, "Did you hear about the fire at Zimmerman?" And I said, "No. There was a fire at Zimmerman?"

SUSAN MAGEE, WEB SERVICES

So I listened to the phone message telling me that there had been a fire. The whole experience was very surreal for me for a very long time and this was the beginning of it.

LIE BYRN
Center for Academic Program Support

From: Johannes A Van Reenen
To: LIBPERS-L
Date: 5/1/2006
Subject: [LIBPERS-L] IMPORTANT MESSAGE: Fire in Zimmerman

There was a fire sometime after 11 PM in Zimmerman periodicals area. Fran, Ed, and others are on-site but unable to enter. There is thick smoke in the building and damage is unknown at this point. Personnel who work in Zimmerman should report to Centennial for re-deployment. Teresa Need is working with VP Susan Carkeek to understand the implications if we cannot occupy the building in the short term. By 6 AM on Monday we hope to send more information.

From: Johannes A Van Reenen
To: LIBPERS-L
Date: 5/1/2006
Subject: [LIBPERS-L] URGENT UPDATE for Zimmerman Personnel

Due to the fire on lower floors of Zimmerman - Please do not report for work on Monday morning. The Centennial Library Reference phone number 277-4412 will be used as the command post number and updates will be listed on their voice mail. Fran will ask selected personnel at Zimmerman to report for work in separate messages.

From: Johannes A Van Reenen
To: various
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Subject: Zimmerman emergency meeting and update

Hi, I just heard from Fran that Zimmerman has been declared a crime scene and there will be no access to the building. The DRAT (Emergency group) will meet in CSEL at 8 AM Monday morning in Bruce's office. I would appreciate if all 4 branch directors can be there. Camila is flying back from Washington today, meanwhile Fran has been on the scene and will attend the police briefing at 7 AM and can update us on that.
6:45 a.m. As I was walking to campus that morning, I smelled smoke but it was neither here nor there... Coming around the other side of the building, though, by the President’s House, everything was blocked off and I saw fire trucks... I was informed by a police officer that there’d been a fire in Zimmerman. Walking off campus, I picked up a copy of The Lobo and realized there had been, in fact, a fire at Zimmerman.

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PAT B., OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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“Oh my God, I did it! I must be the one responsible. After all, I left my coffee pot plugged in over the weekend.” Those were the first thoughts that occurred to me on the morning of Monday, May 1, 2006, the morning after the fire started.

It had begun as a normal Monday morning, nothing special, aside from the fact that I had just gotten paid, so I was perhaps a little more cheerful than usual. I had taken my shower, gotten dressed, and had fed Stella and Blanche, my two cats. I had tuned my TV to Channel 4, so I could listen to Steve Stucker’s weather forecast for the day. I was gathering up my things, about to leave for work, when I happened to hear words coming from my television set: “a fire at Zimmerman Library… starting in the Periodicals Section…”

Oh no! I might have started that fire. I knew that I had not unplugged my electric kettle, because (to be truthful) I never did. I always kept the kettle plugged in, underneath my desk, because the cord was too short to reach the outlets from the top of my desk. The campus safety people were always making inspections of the library, and because extension cords were a big no-no with them, I had to adapt to the situation the only way I knew how. So the kettle always sat on the floor, on the carpeting. It has an on/off switch that could possibly get turned on, were someone to kick it, by accident. I had always worried that such an event might happen. Consequently, when I heard about the fire, I was so sure that I had caused this massive conflagration that I wondered if I still had a job.

BETTY BLACKBURN, Print Resources
ZIMMERMAN FIRE :
(re)collections
(re)collections
(re)collections
This book is a work of remembrance and reflection. Descriptions of persons, places, and events herein are based on contributors’ experience and opinion. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, and events is entirely intentional and certainly expected.
"... this was totally out of anybody's control. Out of our control and everything was just ripped apart."

Kathleen Keating
Reference Coordinator, UL

April 30, 2006
10:51 p.m.

Alarms sound

Russ Cole
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Circulation, Zimmerman Library, University Libraries

I’ve been trying to reconstruct it; it all happened really fast. The alarm went off and Lowell, the counter supervisor, and I started sending people simultaneously to different floors. Lea was studying and she offered to help and we were pretty sure fairly quickly that we had somebody everywhere that people should be. That was maybe one or two minutes and then I went to the panel by the back door to see where the alarm was and opened the box and right then a campus police officer came in, very quickly, and so I showed him the northeast corner, basement. And he said, “Okay, I’ll go down.” Then people started coming back from various areas, but he was the first one. He came back up immediately and said, “There’s flames down there.” And I thought, “Oh, my god.” I didn’t know exactly what he meant. When he said that we still had people out on the floors, then it was trying to keep track. I remember that I wasn’t real confident that the person we’d sent to the 2nd floor knew enough about it, even the corners of that floor, so I grabbed someone else and said, “You go to the 2nd floor, too.” And it turned out he did find some people in one of the corners that the other person missed.

It felt to me like all that took place in about five minutes, but it may have been a little longer and then I remember the officer said, “Okay, you can evacuate now.” And I thought he meant you can evacuate all the people and I told him, “I think we’re as clear as we can be now.” And he said, “No, YOU!” So I had to go out.

Then we were out in the parking lot and more police cars and the fire trucks started coming pretty quickly. There was some confusion about how to get the hoses in. They were trying to decide which door to go in. I finally just ran out there where the fire trucks were and said, “I’ve got a master key. What do you need?” And they said, “How do you get to the northeast corner of the building?” So I took them to the one stairway that comes up over there and opened that for them and they went down and not long after they had to smash out the doors.

Disaster Response initiated and coordinated by University Library (UL) personnel
skylights to get the hoses in. At least I think so; they wouldn’t let us get close again. That door winds through all these other rooms and is very indirect, so it would be pretty hard to get hoses through, so finally they took them through the skylight. They were in there pretty quickly and then they just didn’t come out. More and more firemen came and the smoke was just billowing. They kept us all back. There were people who walked up from who knows where. There was one guy I could see the smoke pouring out from the building and he’s telling me, “But I really need to return this book.” And I said, “Well, wait till tomorrow, okay?”

Once we were pretty sure it was in the hands of the campus police and the fire people, my first concern was how to get a hold of somebody. So, because I didn’t have a cell phone, I’m walking around asking to borrow one. I had to get Ed’s number, so I called my home and told Neil’s sister to look up his number and I called him pretty quickly but he told me that Fran had already talked to him and he was getting ready to come. I didn’t call her, but someone else must have really quickly. And so then I knew Ed was coming and I didn’t think of anything else I could really do, but at that point we still thought we were going to go back in and get our stuff and close the library. We didn’t realize how big it was at all. Smoke wasn’t really billowing yet. It was about 11:10 p.m. We didn’t realize it would be months before we’d go back in. I’d been eating fried chicken at my desk and thought it would still be good when I got back to it. It didn’t seem very long at all before Fran came up. She said, “I just want you to know I’m here.” That felt very good because I knew at some point we’d be talking to people about what had happened, and that’s fine, but I knew that I didn’t know everything I should know about the building structure and things like that. So that was really nice, when she was there. And then, I don’t know how long after that—ten or so minutes—they put crime scene tape up. I remember when Ed got there and we were asking them if we could go in at some point. One of the answers was, “If you go in there you’ll be entering a crime scene and you’ll be arrested;” or something like that. Pretty firm. And then somebody came up and asked us about the students. My god, this is huge.

I walked around the west side of Zimmerman to the front and Verity Robert [student employee] was standing there. I told them they could go. The next day, some had gone home, you know; by the time we realized we weren’t going back there was something in those rooms. So that image said, “Oh, no, this isn’t just some small trash can fire. Not only that, just driving into the area, seeing the reading rooms inundated with smoke, just full of smoke. That gave me a sinking feeling, like this wasn’t just some small trash can fire. Not only that, just driving into the area, you couldn’t get close. There were fire trucks all the way around the tower area and the firemen and smoke had come out of the top of the tower. Smoke was billowing out of the skylights, but it looked like smoke was coming out of just about everything. That door to the Cement Room and the Willard Room and there was smoke in there. At that point, we just thought it was the whole building; we were horrified. We just didn’t know anything, but thought, “My god, this is huge.”

Fran Wilkinson
Interim Dean, University Libraries

Phone rings. It’s late. After 11 p.m. “This can’t be good.” Zimmerman is on fire! Could it be a false alarm? No. I’m called. “Is it chaos?” Yes. I’m told Campus Police,ранt Emergency Coordinating Center, Fire Chief, chief of police there. I call Ed to meet me there. Grab Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan. Drive to campus. Many thoughts. Shock. Disbelief. How could this happen? Will Zimmerman still be there? It has to be! I park by campus police. Walk toward Zimmerman. What will I find?

Ed Castillo-Padilla
Manager, Facilities Services, University Libraries

I was called right after the fire started. It started around 10:20 in the evening that Sunday so I think I got here around 11:30 because I was already in bed and asleep at the time. It was really upsetting seeing smoke coming out of the skylights and looking into the West Wing and seeing the reading rooms inundated with smoke, just full of smoke. That gave me a sinking feeling, like this wasn’t just some small trash can fire. Not only that, just driving into the area, you couldn’t get close. There were fire trucks all the way around the tower area and the firemen and smoke had come out of the top of the tower. Smoke was billowing out of the skylights, but it looked like smoke was coming out of just about everything. That door to the Cement Room and the Willard Room and there was smoke in there. At that point, we just thought it was the whole building; we were horrified. We just didn’t know anything, but thought, “My god, this is huge.”

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Emergency location maps developed
Rockefeller’s Cleaning Co. begins Zimmerman clean-up

and UI Disaster Recovery Assistance Team (DRAT) worked through the night. May 1: Zimmerman declared a crime scene. DRAT meets at Centennial Science and Engineering Library. A Meeting with insurance adjustors, managers, facilities managers, workers, move teams, Campus Police, & insurance adjustors.

Frenetic activity coordinating work of UL employees, contractors, Office of Capital Projects, architects, Safety and Risk Services, Physical Plant, Campus Police, & insurance adjustors.

“Mark Castillo-Padilla”

Manager, Facilities Services, University Libraries

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Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean, University Libraries

I live close to UNM and I remember that night, as I was drifting off to sleep, I heard sirens at 10:30/11-ish. I remember thinking, “Oh dear, somebody is having a bad day.” Little did I know. So, it was probably about 1:30 a.m. when I was awakened by a phone call. You know this is not going to be good news. It was Fran—very business like—“Nancy, this is Fran. There’s been a fire at Zimmerman. I need you to start the phone tree.” And then we were talking about who else needed to be notified and who had been called. Camila [Camila Alire, Dean, University Libraries] was out of town, but would return from D.C. in the morning. And we discussed some more of the logistics. I asked, “Should I come down there?” She said, “No, just make sure the phone tree starts probably around 5-ish in the morning. You don’t want to wake people up at 2 o’clock to say don’t come to work. But it’s going to be on the news and you need to start catching people to tell them not to come to work at Zimmerman. Tell them, “Yes, there has been a fire. Stay home until you hear otherwise from us, that sort of thing.”

Probably around 5:00 a.m. I started calling people at the top of the list—the managers, department heads, directors, that sort. Some of them had already heard. In fact some people I talked to said, “Yeah, I just heard it on the radio.” if they were early risers. I was waking people up, which is awkward, telling them, “Well, there’s been a little bit of a fire; don’t come to work.” You know, it was being the bearer of bad news but still not knowing how bad. We did not know the extent of the damage at that point or how long we were going to be closed. So that was my first experience, clicking into the mode of getting my list, trying to gather my phone numbers and focusing on what to do and then, of course, being here first thing in the morning.

Well, there’s been a little bit of a fire.

Zimmerman circulation staff deployed to Centennial and Parish Memorial Library

Center for Academic Program Support (CAPS) relocated to Centennial for tutoring in math and physics and to the

Russ Cole
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

One thing that strikes me when I think back on that night is the sense of growing magnitude. In the moment when the alarm went off, it was pretty routine; we were basically concerned with what we always do: just get people out as best we can. Then as the night went on, standing out in the parking lot watching the smoke billow out for hours and hours, just realizing how enormous it was going to be. I remember when my son Neil was about to be born I was worried that when it came time to make that rush to the hospital I would freeze up. I even asked my doctor about that. “But what if I just fold?” When the time came, it was rushed, but there was no problem like that. With the night of the fire, not knowing until we almost had the place cleared out that it was a real fire played a big part in staying calm.

Immediately after the fire, while Zimmerman Library was closed for emergency recovery 105 (or 75%) of a total of 140 UL employees were displaced.

Nancy Dennis, e-mail, April 16, 2007

“Throughout the night the awareness of how bad it was just grew and grew and grew.”

RUSS COLE
Zimmerman Library

Student Union Bldg (SUB) for all other subjects

May 2

Essentials for displaced staff and library patrons retrieved from Zimmerman – with or without permission

Reference services begin at SUB

Nancy Dennis, e-mail, April 16, 2007
Later that night, the building was under the jurisdiction of the Fire Marshal so he had complete control over everything. University officials had to report to him, the police had to report to him, everyone reported to the Fire Marshal’s office, so it was a matter of him knowing we wanted to at least know what was going on, could we at least take a look? And he permitted us to do this. We just went in far enough to where we could take a look, we didn’t actually go into the areas. We just looked down; it was dark, there were no lights because all the power had been shut down. The smell was really strong and there was water everywhere from the fire. It was a mess. That was kind of wrenching and discouraging. But at that point you’re in a recovery mode and you’re thinking, “What do we have to do now?” You’ve got this problem and you have to react, start reacting in a positive way as much as you can.

Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean

Those of us who were on DRAT, which is the Disaster Recovery Assistance Team, were to report at 8:00 a.m. Monday morning over at Centennial Science and Engineering Library [CSEL]. At that point Fran didn’t know the extent of the fire, although she did say it was a pretty serious fire and she hadn’t been into the building yet but it was a three-alarm fire. It was significant. We go off the phone and I’m thinking, “Holy Moly.”

By Tuesday we knew we needed to get information tents up out front of Zimmerman. People were coming to the doors not even aware there had been a fire, even though there was caution tape with Do Not Enter/Closed signs. So a lot of library folks stepped up and we got the SUB set up. Interlibrary Loan [ILL] was up and running in three days. The library machine started working—what can we do to help students get through finals—that sort of thing.
I think it was Tuesday afternoon, when a group—Camila, Fran, Ed, the Provost, the UNM Police Chief, Risk Management people—were getting their first walk-through of the building. Mike Kelly and I asked to join them so we could see the potential damage to the Center for Southwest Research (CSWR) and basement work areas. Every unit that reported to me worked either in the basement or on the 1st floor directly above the site of the fire. I really wanted to see for myself the extent of the damage.

Barbara Aragon
Physical Plant Custodian, Zimmerman Library

Deborah Cole: Did you just wait until you came to work to find out what to do?
Barbara: I was wondering what was going to happen to me, because I work here at the library and I was thinking, “Oh-oh. I don’t know where I’m going.” I assumed that the library had burned, but I didn’t really comprehend how bad it was. They just said the basement had burned and it looked really bad, but I didn’t really comprehend how bad. I thought it was just a little corner someplace.

On Tuesday, I did my morning shifts and then I came over here to Zimmerman and the yellow caution tape was all around the library. I walked up and asked the security guard what was happening and if I could come in. And he told me the library had burned and was closed. And I thought, “Okay,” and went back to my boss. He assigned me to another area until the library administration decided to move back in.

Pat B.
Receptionist, Office of the Dean, University Libraries

Pat: Linda Skye kept in touch with me. At first I monitored and forwarded the messages on the administrative offices’ phone line. I was doing that from home, which was o.k. I felt useful.
Deborah Cole: How long did that go on?
Pat: At least a week, maybe two? The Office of the Dean was moved temporarily to Bruce Neville’s office in Centennial.
Deborah Cole: Did she just wait until she came to work to find out what to do?
Pat: No, I don’t think so. I think it was just BCM and us. I think they did that because everything the Dean’s staff and BCM needed to answer questions was up there—payroll and files and such—so it was either that or move all the computers and files and phone numbers to another building, which I think was going to be a problem.
I received a very early wake up call from Fran on May 1, 2006, to begin the phone tree for Budget and Cost Management. When I called the BCM Staff, Sara informed me that timesheets were due. I called Fran, who said she would have to receive approval from the Fire Marshal. Fran called me back and said that the Fire Marshal would only allow me to enter to retrieve the timesheets. I was scheduled for annual leave on Monday and Tuesday but reported to work both days. Fran asked Nancy Dennis to meet me at the north doors. I informed Sara to meet me at the north doors as well. Sara told us where to find all of the timesheets on her desk. I was given fifteen minutes to retrieve what I needed with Ed as an escort. We were given dust masks to wear. Ed and I grabbed everything we thought Sara would need and returned prior to our allotted time. Sara and I took the timesheets to Parish Memorial Library [PML] where Sue Awe let us use a classroom and some office supplies. Connie came to help Sara and to relieve me, so that I could leave since I was scheduled for annual leave. All the timesheets were hand-carried and the deadline was met.

Everyone was paid with no delay thanks to the efforts of the Fire Marshal, Nancy, Sue, Ed, Juanita, Sara and Connie.

Fran had to ask the Fire Marshal for permission for Ed and me to enter the building to get all of our budget files. Bruce Neville was very kind in setting Kitty and me up in an office in the basement of CSEL. The office had a computer, but no printer available. We needed our printer and some office supplies, which Louie and Bonifacio [Louie Perez and Bonifacio Anglada, Facilities Services] were able to get for us. The computer did not have the software we needed to prepare the budgets. We had to ask permission to download the required software onto the computer we were borrowing. John Benedetto was very kind in downloading what we needed and setting up our printing. We were able to check out one of the laptops on loan, so that Kitty and I could both be on the computers although only one had printing capability. Kitty was able to print all of the budgets for Fran’s signature and turn them in to the Provost by our deadline. I would like to express my thanks to the Fire Marshal, Fran, Bruce, George, John, Ed, Louise, Bonifacio, and Kitty in helping BCM meet the Provost’s budget deadline.

Juanita Trujillo
Business Manager, University Libraries

“...you know, working in the Centennial flood gave us a lot of experience dealing with disasters, so once you get over the initial shock of everything, you get into the mode where it’s just a job and you try to do the best you can. And everyone does. All of the staff does, especially those who are displaced and working other places. It’s really hard for them.”

ED CASTILLO-PADILLA Facilities Services
Russ Cole  
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

Deborah Cole: Were you able to sleep much Sunday night?

Russ: Well, when I got home I did think about the fire but went to sleep at some point.

D: Did you get a call the next day?

Russ: I got an e-mail when I got up but I'm sure I talked to Ava sometime early in the morning. I can't remember exactly. I think Ava was calling everybody at 3 in the morning. I'm not sure. It was clear to me even at home afterwards that staff were communicating at that point. So then the question was, "Where do I go in the morning?" I figured I'd just call Ava in the morning and find out.

D: What was it like when you finally went back into the library?

Russ: I have to say, curiosity was right up there because we knew by that point, of course, that the building survived and that the damage to the materials, though very sad, wasn't as bad as it could have been. So I had a little bit more uplifted feelings about it, so it was almost exciting to be back there and see that we could start again.

D: How about doing the night shift again?

Russ: For me it was weird because, it being finals week that week, there had to be some place open late and because it couldn't be Zimmerman anymore, it was changed to Centennial. So the very next night I found myself being the only staff member to close out Centennial and I was unfamiliar with closing there. So I did think about that a bit that night and of course, I wondered, "How did the fire start?" And you see the same people, who you know aren't students, in Centennial because they used to come to Zimmerman. So I was really careful there, watching every little corner and just running around all night making damn sure nothing happened there. I had a sense of total confusion and displacement. But the students there were so great. Still, there was just a sense of responsibility that you really don't want to think too much about. You've got to do it but you don't want to think about it a lot.

Sarah Stohr  
Library Resident, University Libraries

I was in Lexington, Kentucky and scheduled for a phone interview on May 5. So I was trying to keep up with my UNM news. On May 2, I was reading the Santa Fe New Mexican online and I read "Zimmerman Library Fire." And I thought [laughter], "That's interesting." But there was no specific information at all. Big fire? Little fire? Campfire? I had no idea. I like to think, though, that's why I got my job, because I knew that the fire had happened and during my phone interview I asked about it. [Laughter]

Pat B.  
Receptionist, Office of the Dean

Deborah Cole: Did it feel good when those of you in the University Libraries administration were able to return to Zimmerman soon after the fire?

Pat: Yes. Lots of teams were broken up. Some were spread between Centennial and Parish or Fine Arts and Parish. Some were just wandering around with a cell phone and couldn't do any work for some time. We had a purpose that we could work on right away, and actually had a place to do it. There were people working in the SUB at reference desks.

D: Was it strange working in Zimmerman at that time?

Pat: It was very quiet and isolated. But I was very glad to have a job, because when the fire happened on April 30, I'd been a permanent employee for only a little over a month. And then we had no place to work and I thought, "Well, am I still going to be employed?" I definitely
didn't have seniority. So there was that question going on for a while, whether or not I would continue to be employed.

D: Some students have talked about that. I doubt any other staff had that concern, but since you were such a new hire, you didn't know what to think.

P: But I did keep my job! And I seemed to stay busy. There was always something I could do, you know, "Here, can you go do this?" And that's great, because I was helping. I was contributing. It can really feel bad not to be needed. I don't like that feeling. I want to be productive. I want to be a part of the team. When something is wrong, I want to help fix it.

Consuelo and A.J. LaBelle
Student Employees, Print Resources, University Libraries

Consuelo: I thought, "Oh my god, I wonder how bad it is?" Would we go in the next day and have no work? And Kathy Gienger, our supervisor, had left for the first three days of that week, so we were hanging around, walking around.

Deborah Cole: You didn't know who to talk to or where anyone was?

A.J.: Yeah.

C: We contacted Sever [Sever Bordeianu, Head, Print Resources] and he was the one who set us up at the information tables.

A.J.: We told him we didn't have a job. And he told us we could do the information tables until the books started coming through again because we had first priority to get positions. The information table was fun. A piece of cardboard could have done my job.

D: What did you do? What was it like?

C: You can turn your books in at Centennial [points left] or Parish [points right]. There's where they are.

A.J.: Here's a map. We just had to tell the students that we knew nothing about the fire and they'd have to find that out later.

D: Which tables did you staff?

A.J.: I did both, the one in the front of Zimmermern and the one in the back, but I spent most of my time at the one in back, on the north side. It was nice; it was under the trees.

C: Kathy sent us an e-mail telling us we were famous because we were on the front page of a newspaper, at the table in front of the library. We did that for a couple of weeks.

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A piece of cardboard could have done my job.

Mary Ellen Hanson
RMBA

The first thing when I walked in there, was just this whole pile of badly burned books stacked up next to the government information and reference desk and it just sucked the breath out of me.

Dan Barkley, UNM Today, May 1, 2007

A piece of cardboard could have done my job.

I've worked in Zimmerman Library for over 20 years. When I learned about the fire, my heart sank and my mind raced. What did we lose? I couldn't go in to check on the collections, and I felt so helpless. I thought I appreciated it, but now I realize how much that building, its WPA furnishings and the historical documents, mean to me.

Terry Gugliotta, Albuquerque Tribune, May 10, 2006

... that communication aspect, both public relations and for people within the library, was a crucial function to get going.

Mary Ellen Hanson
RMBA

The thing about the fire is that school was still going on. People still needed their resources ...

AVA KARGACIN
Zimmerman Library

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AVA KARGACIN
Zimmerman Library
D: What was it like when students started coming?

E: It was like a community and we were all suffering and this big thing had just happened. The only people who came at first were our regular users. They sought us out and found us. It was a community feeling, like "We have to get through this week." I don't remember getting too many irate, angry people. They just dealt with it.

Lee Byrne
Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

On that Monday, May 1, I couldn’t do anything but talk to Karen Olson, our director; she and Michele Steiner were out in Smith Plaza trying to figure out what to do. They did an excellent job of pulling people together, getting people to give them space. They were working from the plaza and then from an office in the Arts and Sciences advisement center. They were calling in everything they could. At noon they had space in the SUB for the tutors and a space in Centennial worked out with the UL administration. It was just amazing.

I don’t remember if it was Monday or Tuesday that the computer issue arose. Both of our file servers are up on the 3rd floor of Zimmerman. There was an issue about being able to connect to them. I think they were able to connect for a little while and then lost connection. The power went down and must have come back up. Oh, I know, Ed Padilla came up and started one of our servers. I talked to him on the phone, telling him how to start it. It was Wednesday or Thursday that the ethernet connections went and we were no longer able to connect.

So I was trying to deal with these problems from home. From my point of view, I thought I might as well stay home to deal with them because no one was going to let me in the building to get the computers or the file servers or anything else, so I talked to and e-mailed people from home. It was crazy.

"Zimmerman is more than a place to study; it is a collection of materials crucial for research for students and faculty."

REED DASENBROCK
UNM Provost

5/1/2006 1:56 PM

ZIM circ staff will be redeployed to CSEL and Parish. Dave H. and Vanessa from Parish will be working on this.

The expectations for staff for the next few days will be to provide desk coverage. We are setting up a ref desk at the SUB beginning tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

For those of you who do not have e-mail access at home, I will be making telephone calls to let you know if you are expected to come in to work the desk tomorrow.

Thanks for your patience as we find our way.

5/1/2006 4:10 PM

Dan and I have developed a reference schedule for this week. We have secured a space at the SUB on the 1st Floor outside of the Ballrooms to provide reference services until we can move back into Zimmerman.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we attempt to maintain a consistent level of public service.

5/2/2006 1:02 PM

Some members of the Library Disaster team will be doing a walk through of Zimmerman this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. and then will be meeting with the Fire Marshal, Physical Plant, Risk Management and contractors to determine the next steps. Also, a small group of people were able to get in this morning to retrieve some essentials. Camila is calling an all-library meeting on Thursday afternoon in the SUB Ballroom A.

In addition to the reference desk set up in the SUB, we have arranged to have information tables set up outdoors on both sides of Zimmerman in order to provide information to students and direct them to other libraries for services.
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16

5/1/2006 2:44 PM

It does not appear that Zimmerman will open any time this week. Employees who work in Zimmerman Library should not report to work until they have been contacted by their supervisor with information on when and where to report. Camila will call an all-library meeting as soon as we have enough information to make it useful.

We are working on a plan to redeploy student employees so that they can be employed at least throughout the end of the semester.

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Thanks for your patience as we find our way.
Evangelia Oates  
Library Resident, University Libraries

As the temporary reference desks some people would get angry because we didn’t have details about the fire. “Well, we don’t know.” And they’d say, “Well, how is it that you don’t know?” “Because we don’t!” Some people wanted details about the fire and we couldn’t provide them. Other people would be angry because certain things wouldn’t be available. You can understand that, but at a certain point you want to say, “Well, be angry at the person who set the fire, you know or whatever ‘suspicious thing’ caused it.” For the most part people were just curious. Some people were satisfied with our answers and some weren’t.

A.J. LaBelle  
Student Employee, Print Resources

We have a friend named Malinda who was in her last year, just about to graduate and finishing up classwork at the time of the fire, so she was going bonkers. Instead of just going into the library and getting what she needed quickly, she had to fill out and submit requests and then wait. She said it was so terrible and slow things down so much. Well, she graduated so I guess it turned out good. [Laughter] She was very studious, very determined.

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood  
Interlibrary Loan, University Libraries

Deborah Cole: What equipment did you have to get ready?
Joe: Just the computers set up to print right, to download articles and request forms for patrons. And we had to say “No” to everything, of course, because they weren’t letting us into Zimmerman.
Kathryn: We were up and running within three days. I think we were running on that Wednesday. I was amazed at how fast we got going.

“We ordered 432 items today (and are currently caught up). 76 electronic articles were already received and delivered to patrons (even though these were only requested this morning). In addition, 106 books already in the pipeline were received, processed, delivered to CSEL circulation, and patrons were notified. The 80 returned books recovered from Zimmerman circulation were processed and sent to the mail room.”
RANDY MOOREHEAD  
Interlibrary Loan, e-mail, May 4, 2006

Let me tell you a story about Boni Anglada. You remember the student in Gifts who had an accent? He was from Europe somewhere. Well, he bought $500 of special materials at the UNM Bookstore just before the fire and had left them at work. He was leaving the country and really upset because he needed those things. So, two days after the fire, Boni went down to Gifts—it was DARK, there were NO lights—and he felt around for what he thought it should feel like and on the second “feel” he got it. He had a mask on, right, but it was still so smelly and smoky he could hardly breathe. Boni did that. And that kid, he never forgot it. He was so thankful. [The student was Sylvain Agar from Toulouse, France. The purchases were gifts for his family; included with them was Sylvain’s graduation gown.]

Rik Burkard  
Supervisor, Marking/Bindery, Print Resources

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

The only beings to live through the fire that occurred on April 30, 2006, were my fish. Though the Marking/Bindery area in the basement of Zimmerman Library (where my office used to be) is just a few walls and offices away from the origin of the fire, those fish survived. The Pink Convicts (African Cichlids) actually did well in the murky, ash-darkened water for the two weeks it took before I could retrieve them. Ed and Louie fed them whenever they were allowed into that part of the building.

When I finally had my 15 minutes to get what I needed from my office space, I grabbed all the work-related items then put the fish tank on a cart and took the elevator up to the Dean’s Conference Room. Patricia Campbell had agreed to watch over them. Since seven fish had survived, I dubbed them “The Magnificent Seven.” Unfortunately, shortly after they were relocated one fish committed suicide by leaping from the tank. Another tried the same a few days later but was rescued by the administrative staff. A coffee mug now weights the top of the tank to keep the fish from jumping out.

“furniture storage ∆ Meeting held with BMS CAT, Physical Plant Dept, and Maloy Construction to schedule recovery work and discuss remodel project
∆ First outbound shipment

HEROES  

RESCUES

WE ORDERED 432 ITEMS TODAY (AND ARE CURRENTLY CAUGHT UP). 76 ELECTRONIC ARTICLES WERE ALREADY RECEIVED AND DELIVERED TO PATRONS (EVEN THOUGH THESE WERE ONLY REQUESTED THIS MORNING). IN ADDITION, 106 BOOKS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE WERE RECEIVED, PROCESSED, DELIVERED TO CSEL CIRCULATION, AND PATRONS WERE NOTIFIED. THE 80 RETURNED BOOKS RECOVERED FROM ZIMMERMANN CIRCULATION WERE PROCESSED AND SENT TO THE MAIL ROOM.”

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Johann van Reenen
Assistant Dean, University Libraries

I was one of the first persons allowed to return to work in my office. My strongest impressions that first day back were strangely not the building's condition and the loss of our journals in areas of strength—that was a reality but could be worked through and may even leave us better off than before the fire. It was feeling alone and disconnected from others, also guilty to be back when others were waiting anxiously at home or trying to be productive in odd corners where space was available.

The lesson I learned? A building, especially a beautiful one such as Zimmerman, is important but essentially loses its personality when the people who make their living and learning there are absent. People inform a place not the other way around.

Susan Magee
Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies, University Libraries

My typical work day back in May of 2006? I'd arrive at 7:00 a.m. I'd check Lib Info, PML eRef and FastInfo to see if anybody had asked questions and then I answered those. After the first two or three days we had a FAQ on the UL website. So I would print out the newest version of the FAQ and on the way to the morning DRAT meeting, I would take copies of the FAQ to the various service desks at the SUB and on both sides of Zimmerman. I'd come back from the DRAT meeting two hours later and incorporate anything new into the FAQ. At lunch I took print-outs of the new version of the FAQ to the service desks. In the afternoon I usually did my regular work or I'd be on the reference desk. Then I'd go to the afternoon DRAT meeting and write myself notes about what to change on the FAQ. I'd go back and check Lib Info and FastInfo and PML eRef again for any questions. I went home at 5:00 or 6:00. At 10:00 or 11:00 I'd sign on and start updating again. So I did four updates a day of the FAQ and tweaked other web pages. I had to make changes to anything that was Zimmerman-related, because Zimmerman was “dead,” you know. That May I put in about 60 hours extra.

At the DRAT meetings I was the voice of “This is something we need to tell people.” “We're going to get questions about that. How are we going to answer those questions?” Some information was appropriate to share and some wasn’t, but a decision needed to be made one way or another. Then I got to go and make it so.

I also worked with Dave Herzel to produce the paging form, then with Eric Nudell to get it linked to LIBROS. As people started coming back to work and moving into Parish, I helped locate furniture to make work spaces and cleared out the classroom so they could set up in there. That was the fun part because it was physical. I got to be away from the computer.

Looking back over the e-mails I kept from those days, it was really a testament to everybody's commitment to the campus, how fast the services were restored. The Zimmerman reference desk was being staffed at the SUB that first day. And we had paging up and ready by the end of the week, but it took another few days before they actually let us in the building.

Kathleen Keating
Reference Coordinator, University Libraries

On May 16 we had those 15 minutes to get into our offices. It was very dark outside our offices. You couldn't see very much. You could still smell the smoke but we wore those masks.

The first thing I did was download my hard drive because I knew that was where everything I needed was and they said that the computers might not make it. I didn't know if the computer would come on. It's a lot of time to do the whole drive, but I did download the main files. I wasn't so worried about anything else. I grabbed a few things—one picture and a couple of personal things—and left. Everybody was in a big hurry.

Ava Kargacin
Operations Manager, Circulation, Zimmerman Library

Ava: That first day? We realized we were homeless and we were trying to figure out where we could go. And that's when I discovered the wonderful world of science, because we ended up in the basement down there in Centennial.

It was finals. The students didn’t know what was going on.

I spent the first couple of days tracking them down to tell people where they could go. And that’s when I discovered the wonderful world of science, because we ended up in the basement down there in Centennial. It was finals. The students didn’t know what was going on.

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Deborah Cole: Were you able to contact them all?

A: Oh, yeah, I got most everybody. Some of them didn’t show up. They decided that since there was a fire, school was over; especially students who leave right after finals. It was the ones who worried intercession that were really confused. They just didn’t know what was going on. I don’t think anyone knew what was going on. We weren’t sure.

D: And how did the students keep in contact with you?

A: Oh, yeah, we had nothing set. I call it “the summer of being homeless.” They put us wherever they could. Basically, I just lived out of my backpack. I’d start at Centennial then walk over to Parish because that’s where Steve Keller and Kate Dömer were doing all the paging. I’d start there, once we were able to get into pages in the morning. Then we’d head all the reserve books out. The thing about the fire was that school was still going on. People still needed their resources, so we just had to figure out where to take them and that’s how we ended up doing all the paging, reserve books over to Centennial and the holds over to Parish. We were so busy doing that whenever they could. Basically, I just lived out of my backpack. I’d start at Centennial and then walk over to Parish because that’s where Steve Keller and Kate Dömer were doing all the paging. Then we had to move all the reserve books out. The students knew how to find me because we just let the grapevine know that we started every day in Centennial, so they’d find me there in the morning. They’d come to Centennial to sign in and then go over to Parish to work. The branches were great, because they extended their hours—Zimmerman is usually open long hours because of finals. They were trying to pick up that lag and so we moved the students back and forth. You never know where we were doing what or which library would be doing the longest hours.

A: It was weird. It was surreal, because people were in Zimmerman cleaning and working. I saw Dan and Anne around. Ed was in there. And we put on our little helmets. I felt like something out of a Saturday Night Live skit. We went up, pulled books, and put them on carts. I checked on the kids who were at the table near the north door to stop people from coming in. They’d see us coming in. People would even walk past the table and try to walk in. It was always confusing. One morning I’d be paging and then the next hour I’d be on Fire Watch. Everyone would say, “What are you doing right now? Are you paging or Fire Watching?” We’d see people in the stacks draped in plastic. It added something out of a Saturday Night Live skit. We went up, pulled books, and put them on carts. I checked on the kids who were at the table near the north door to stop people from coming in. They’d see us coming in. People would even walk past the table and try to walk in. It was always confusing. One morning I’d be paging and then the next hour I’d be on Fire Watch. Everyone would say, “What are you doing right now? Are you paging or Fire Watching?” We’d see people in the stacks draped in plastic.

Ava called me very late one evening asking if I would be willing to go back in the building. It was like some kind of Chernobyl-like disaster, you know; “Are you willing to go back in this contaminated environment?” For myself, I don’t have any particular health problems, so I wasn’t worried about the smell. They said filter masks would be available and they had air purifiers. So I was actually somewhat excited. I felt like part of a vanguard. I really wanted to see what state “my library” was in. I’ve worked here longer than I have lived any place after college. It definitely wasn’t the best environment because I did go home that night and had a few coughing spells, which I do attribute to being in the library. I felt like some kind of Chernobyl-like disaster, you know; “Are you willing to go back in this contaminated environment?” For myself, I don’t have any particular health problems, so I wasn’t worried about the smell. They said filter masks would be available and they had air purifiers. So I was actually somewhat excited. I felt like part of a vanguard.

A: I felt like something out of a Saturday Night Live skit. DEBORAH COLE, Student Employee, Circulation, Zimmerman Library
I have several stories and a few insights related to the fire. The first has to do with paper. As an eResources librarian I always thought I didn’t depend that much on paper. But with the fire I realized that I had been using paper a lot, even though I do back up all my work on a hard-drive and do work mostly online. I still had an entire office full of paper. Well, with the fire, and being displaced and away from my office, I went non-paper. I guess you could say I finally went all-E.

As a team, we were, if not up and running as normal, pretty functional by the end of that first week from home and various places. We could do a lot of our work from home. By the second week we were back to “business as usual” in a very unusual way. I am very proud of that. I was really impressed with people’s putting the institution’s needs in front of their own. That was a very uplifting aspect of this experience.

Linda Skye
Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Dean

DEAN’S SWEET AND NOT SO SUITE
Monday, May 1, ready for the last push of the semester, almost to intersession where one can take a deep breath and start to see summer.

Phone rings at 6 a.m., who could that be?

It’s Fran…in overdrive, but somehow very calm too…fire in the library, everyone’s okay, fire’s out but much damage. Come to work at Centennial today, meeting at 8 a.m.

D.R.A.T.—Room full of faces, branch directors, all the deans, folks from UNM, many, many more. Standing room only. Time to get to work!

Move in with Bruce Neville: four new office mates. What a sweetheart—open arms to all. What do you need? No problem, consider it done.

First trip inside the disaster—masks on! Scurry in, scurry out. Grab what you need. (Impossible to do.) Computer files, faculty search files for eventual hiring of Sarah Stohr, ongoing projects. Smoke smell burns the throat, makes your eyes feel itchy, ozone machines on full blast—a wounded Zimmerman.

Centennial folks: business as usual. So willing to offer help—computer with e-mail and calendar access, supplies, office for search committees telephone interviews, etc. etc. etc.

D.R.A.T. meetings every day, twice a day. Add coffee and bagels and it’s more bearable. So much to be done all at once, but everyone is a pro, almost as though they practiced for this. Sweet.

Dean’s suite made ready for early occupation—wipe, dust, shampoo, scrub, tiles out, ozone in. Clean enough—let’s go, there’s work to be done!

Strange: monitor, phone, pen cup, fan, vases, photo frames, binders, plants—all has shifted ever so slightly—all has been lifted, dusted, replaced. Like returning to an altered state of being. No time to ponder—go!

Peaking through plastic sheeting: Zimmerman under attack—noise and ozone machines and dust everywhere, people cleaning everywhere, smiling workmen in hard hats and masks scrape at her private parts in the basement—scraping and hauling out the debris—like a D and C?

Zimmerman waits—so patient, so stalwart, so unflinching. These strangers, like the night nurse at hospital, they tend her wounds, provide the meds for healing, but are unseeing of her unique self. Patience, patience, they will come home soon.

Fran Wilkinson, UNM Today, May 1, 2007
As everyone in the UNM community knows, we had a serious fire in Zimmerman Library on Sunday night. Our thanks go out to everyone who responded to the emergency. By the time I got there, UNM Police, the Albuquerque Fire Department and people from the State Fire Marshal’s Office were there and got the fire under control quickly, limiting the damage. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

As everyone also knows, we are close to the end of the semester, a crucial time for library use. For those who use Zimmerman primarily as a place to study, we have already made a number of alternative arrangements. The Centennial Science and Engineering Library and Parish Library are open extra hours. CAPS has relocated to Centennial for tutoring in Math and Physics and to the SUB for all other subjects. The SUB will be open extra hours, and we’ve set aside some quiet zones in the SUB for those studying for finals. These arrangements will continue through exam week, and details will be made available on a daily basis on the home page of the University’s website.

But of course Zimmerman is more than a place to study; it is a collection of materials crucial for research for students and faculty. I regret to say that it will be closed to the general public as well as to students and faculty for some time. We need to make sure that the building is safe before it can be open for general use. However, we expect that by Thursday, we will have a document delivery system in place by which you can make a request at another library. Library staff will go into the stacks and retrieve the book and deliver it to you at Centennial, Fine Arts or Parish. This will be available only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and we are still working on how the system will work, so check the website for additional information. This will only cover books in the general stacks, since the periodicals and all other materials stored in the basement will be unreachable for the time being. Since some students will need this service in order to complete research papers for courses this semester, I’d like to ask others to wait until the end of exam week in order to use the system. If Zimmerman has not opened by the beginning of the first summer session, we will continue this in the Summer Sessions. It may be possible to use Interlibrary Loan for other materials, so please consult with ILL and visit reference librarians.

Assuming this gets up and running by Thursday, faculty need to understand that students will not have had access to the Library for three crucial days of the semester, with limited access thereafter. There will be some courses, particularly in the fields covered by Zimmerman—humanities, social sciences, and education—in which this may cause a delay in students being able to complete assignments. I am therefore asking all faculty to be sensitive to these issues and to be flexible in terms of offering extensions on assignments in cases where access to Library materials during these days was crucial for the completion of the assignment. We obviously hope that everyone can complete the semester on time, and I know the community will pull together at this time. The library staff and faculty, led by Dean Camila Alire, will be working long hours to get everything back to normal just as soon as is possible, and I would like to thank Dean Alire and everyone in the Library for their dedication and effort this week and in the weeks to come.

A final word: Sunday’s events remind us that unexpected events do happen. I was disturbed to hear that a few people on Sunday didn’t take the fire alarm seriously and some even tried to evade the security and get back into the building. Please obey the directions of all security personnel, whether they be from the Police, the Fire Department, or Campus Security, not just in the next few days but more generally.

Good luck with the rest of the semester, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Commencement on Saturday, May 13th, or at one of the many other end-of-the-year events.

Please keep checking the UNM homepage for updated information.

Reed Dasenbrock

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Ranges of books to be cataloged at Zimmerman are labeled for BMS CAT pack-out

May 24

Library Information Technology (LIT) recovers laser printer from New Mexico State Library to be used by UL staff

RMBA staff receives laser printers from State Library

Dean
Aaron Blecha
Student Employee, Zimmerman Library

I expected to just walk back in and have that familiar atmosphere there. But I was surprised; everything was covered in plastic. There were some lights on, but not many, because many of the power breakers, distributors and such, for safety reasons, many of them were turned off and I take it one or two were even destroyed in the fire. And also, immediately after the fire, the recovery and cleaning crews came in and had taken down all the ceiling tiles. So it extended the space of the ceiling three or four more feet. There were various wires and ventilation ducts exposed and other infrastructure in addition to everything being covered. That, in conjunction with the limited light really produced a different effect. It was almost like going to visit a friend who had just had surgery and their physical condition is much different. There wasn’t this immediate correlate of this environment that I was used to. It was almost like being in a different building. In addition to the heavy smell of smoke, they’d laid down plastic pathways for moving equipment in and to take rubble out. There were various things strewn about. It wasn’t the vibrant social space and living research space it once was. It was sort of like a tomb.

Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean

Nancy: The morning of May 1, when I walked by Zimmerman, it was all cordoned off and fire trucks and fire Marshal vehicles were still here. The parking lot

A collection that was built over a century with the work of many librarians cannot be completely restored.

Linda Lewis, UNM Today, May 1, 2006

Dan Barkley, e-mail, May 27, 2006

... in 13 days approximately 130 microfiche/microfilm cabinets were packed and shipped and I’m guessing approximately 13,000 boxes. In 13 days. To me it’s simply incredible how quickly and professionally BMS CAT went about their business and got our material out for remediation.

Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean

Nancy: The morning of May 1, when I walked by Zimmerman, it was all cordoned off and fire trucks and fire Marshal vehicles were still here. The parking lot
was completely closed and, of course, you could smell it. You couldn’t really see a lot of smoke, but you could smell it, just walking by.

I don’t think Camilla was here that first morning so Fran assembled us all at Centennial and gave us the most current information she had. She and Ed got into the building, finally, I think she said around 3:00 a.m. They were able to get permission from the Fire Marshal who took them in just to get a sense of the damage. During the night she was outside looking in windows of the West Wing. It was obscured with the smoke. We look back on it now and realize that that was probably the most significant damage to the building, what it closed longer than anything else: the smoke damage. That’s why the building got completely cleaned. The whole air conditioning and ventilation system had to be cleaned from the air handlers down in the basement to the ventilation ducts throughout the building.

Deborah Cole: How did you feel when you first went into the basement?

N: I think that was the first time I had a strong sense that we no longer had any control over the building and it’s really wasn’t about the library as a library. Zimmerman is a UNM building, a research space it once was, technical services and online tutoring, CAPS, Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS, a social space and living space it once was, but you could smell it, it was nasty smelling.

Lee Byrne
Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

Coming in here that day there was tons of plastic because they were cleaning here and there. The smell was so … oh my gosh … it was so … smoky … [Laughs] There wasn’t smoke in the air but that burning smell, it smelled bad. We did not have to wear masks, but we couldn’t stay in here for long and … this was a week after the fire. I don’t know if those ozone machines came in right away or not. But I do know one time I came up here—I wasn’t here for very long at all. I was feeling really. “Ooooo, ooooo!” [Laughs] When I left I saw one of the machines, and I thought, “Oh. Big huge ozone machines. That’s what’s wrong with me: too much oxygen!” [Laughs]

Deborah Cole: What was it like being inside Zimmerman for the first time after the fire?

Barbara Aragon
Custodian, Zimmerman Library

Barbara: Back here in CSVR and on the 3rd floor it was eerie at first because there was nobody there. I had to come by and check things, try all the doors. None of them were walk out saying good night to the building. “Ooooh, well, today you had your venting cleaned,” or “We ran into this problem today.”

...it really wasn't about the library.

A.J. LaBelle
Student Employee

“It wasn’t the vibrant social space and living research space it once was.”

AARON BLECHA
Student Employee

There aren’t too many times, at least in my experience in this building, where it is totally quiet. Most regular full time employees leave around 5:00 p.m., but there’s a whole other life to this building.

Deborah Cole: How was it, being inside Zimmerman for the first time after the fire?

Barbara: Back here in CSVR and on the 3rd floor it was eerie at first because there was nobody there. I had to come by and check things, try all the doors. None of them were out of the building. There were really quiet moments in the building and it was daylight! The building had assumed a personality, a character in this story. At the end of the day I would walk out saying good night to the building. “Ooooh, well, today you had your venting cleaned,” or “We ran into this problem today.”
open. Nobody was here, just the construction workers, me and the guards. And the guards just stood at the door saying, "No, you can't come through here." When I'd go up to the 3rd floor and check up there! Nobody. Nobody, nobody, nobody. And everything was encased in plastic. All the books up there were encased in plastic. The ceiling tiles were all off. Everything was weird. It was a strange time with everything in plastic, no ceiling tiles, just the concrete up there. Really pretty!

D: When they asked you to clean the restrooms in the basement, was that your first time down there?

B: Actually, I got to know one of the BMS CAT [BMS Catastrophe Company] people who had been cleaning and I wanted to see the basement. So she said, "Bring your hardhat and I'll take you downstairs." When I walked downstairs, I couldn't believe it. It didn't look like the basement anymore. They had started tearing down the walls. They had some of them down and they were working on others. Actually, what I did was tour the restrooms to see if they needed any supplies. It was just unreal. They weren't as bad as I thought they would be. They needed any supplies. It was just unreal. They weren't as bad as I thought they would be. They were mostly smoky. Everything was really gray. They weren't as bad because the people from BMS had wiped everything down really well, but, still, we did a daily dusting. The copier would have this very thin—not real noticeable until you went to touch it—film of dust. ‘You feel that there was dust on it again and you'd think, ‘I just dusted that yesterday’! And you'd do it again and the next day you'd come in and do the same thing.

When the fans would come on it was like being under an airplane. In the office where we were it would be a big ‘ROAR.’ You couldn't hear your telephone conversations. It was just a roar until they got the new ceiling tiles back up there. It was like an airlift or something. At least that's what I remember. The air from the stairwells was shut off. The stairs were dustier. When you got out of the stairwell it didn't smell as bad on the 2nd floor.

There was a lot of dust, fine dust. We'd dust everything off in the offices. Of course, there'd been professional cleaners who had wiped everything down really well, but, still, we did a daily dusting. The copier would have this very thin—not real noticeable until you went to touch it—film of dust. ‘You feel that there was dust on it again and you'd think, ‘I just dusted that yesterday’! And you'd do it again and the next day you'd come in and do the same thing.

Then there was watching the items being removed from the 1st floor from where the smoke came up and watching the walls come down and be reconfigured—all that change—you really got to know the building from the whole building to a bare skeleton and back to a building, a usable building again. It was very interesting to watch that metamorphosis. And then the ceiling tiles, talk about dust [laughs], we had a new kind of dust. We were dusting pieces of ceiling tile and insulation off the photoscaper. When they were working on the air ducts, they took all the ceiling tiles down and there was no sound buffer. When the fans would come on it was like being under an airplane. In the office where we were it would be a big ‘ROAR.’ You couldn’t hear your telephone conversations. It was just a roar until they got the new ceiling tiles back up there. You don't think of your air conditioning and heating as being loud, but it's because the sound dissipates in that dead space behind the tiles. For that period of time, it was not that quiet up there.

Ellee Cushing-Cruver
Seated Employee, CAR

Ellee: I think we got back in a few days before our fall training session in August, so it was really hectic. We had a lot of cleaning to do. We found things exactly where they had been left, papers on the desks. You’d pick up the paper and there was a rectangular outline of dust around where the paper had been. I know the building had been cleaned, but then they turned on the lights and more stuff came out. We kept finding bits of dust and stuff.

Deborah Cole: When did you return to Zimmerman?

Ellee: It didn't look like the basement anymore.

There was a strange odor, not like wood smoke. It wasn't as strong as I expected, which surprised me, but it was definitely there. We walked through clear plastic sheeting that was overlapped. You had to go through folds of sheeting at the bottom and the top of the stairs. It was like an airlock or something. At least that’s what I remember. The air from the stairwells was shut off. The stairs were dustier. When you got out of the stairwell it didn’t smell as bad on the 2nd floor.

Ellee: I think we got back in a few days before our fall training session in August, so it was really hectic. We had a lot of cleaning to do. We found things exactly where they had been left, papers on the desks. You’d pick up the paper and there was a rectangular outline of dust around where the paper had been. I know the building had been cleaned, but then they turned on the lights and more stuff came out. We kept finding bits of dust and stuff.
Several months after the fire, during one of the update meetings Nancy Dennis held of the Content Acquisitions and Access Services group (CAAS), of which the eResources Team is a part, the topic of which Zimmerman keys people should turn in or keep came up. It was a long conversation. Some of us had keys for the outside door. Since that had been re-keyed, we knew we had to turn those in. But various people had keys to doors that led into the staff offices on the 1st floor of Zimmerman. There was quite a bit of discussion about whether to keep those keys or not. Then Nancy suddenly looked up with a funny expression on her face and said, “But that door isn’t there anymore.” We all laughed. It was pretty clear what we had to do with those keys. The door no longer existed.

Ed Castillo-Padilla
Manager, Facilities Services

In those early days right after we weren’t allowed into the building and the smells and sights were still so vivid in everyone’s mind? That was difficult for everybody, including the Physical Plant. They were really taken aback by it because it’s a building they work on and really liked. Some of them even called to give me their condolences; they were really upset.

“They’ve pulled all of the Zimmerman holdings out of the system. That library doesn’t exist any more.”

KATHRYN WOOD
Interlibrary Loan

“Zimmerman is far more than a building.”
FRAN WILKINSON
Interim Dean

… because Zimmerman was “dead,” you know.

SUSAN MAGEE
Web Services

resoration of Zimmerman 1st floor and basement
June 19 Cold Kurzawski takes over fire watch scheduling
June 20 Basement plant inventory
Pat: I started keeping—or tried to keep—a temporary roster about who was where and how to call them or get in touch with them. At first there were a lot of people working out of their homes: people were sharing offices at Parish and Centennial. Fine Arts had one person they squeezed into their space. There were people who had no phones or no cell phones. There were those who were at home trying to do everything by e-mail. Then something would change and someone would say, “Oh, I’ve got a space over here.” Then someone who was working from home would come in and have a different phone number and a different location. So I tried to keep up with all of that.

Everyone was winging it, you know. I felt bad for the people who’d been displaced and for everyone who had their space invaded with one or two or ten people. [Laughs] For me, the phone stretched across the floor was nothing compared to what other people were dealing with.

Deborah Cole: Was there anything you got so used to when you were up there on the 2nd floor all alone, all of you in administration, and you could only go to the restroom and back? Besides the phones was there anything else odd?

P: I know that we had a small printer in the Dean’s office in addition to the large Xerox printer and I think it ended up over in Centennial so that some of the displaced people could have a port to print to, but then as people started coming back to the computers in their offices and printing to that printer they’d realize it was printing to somewhere in Centennial. I’d say, “I don’t know where your document is. If it went anywhere, it went there.” It took a while to get defaults changed. It became a standard that if it showed up over there, we’d figure it out and reprint it.

Think outside the box? How about inside the box? Concerning conservation of Zimmerman art works June 21 18.57.1A Meeting 

D: I placed the conveyor assembled for periodical pack-out from north loading dock stairwell. A conveyor reserved for Pack Back after Zimmerman submitted to insurance company for reimbursement A Meeting
Susan Magee
Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies

Susan: Eric Nudell was the first one on our doorstep. He showed up Monday, May 1, right after we opened. It was, “Hello. Do you have a place I can set up?” We did actually have two vacant offices. I think it was that same day that Dave Herzel came over and took the old office for Zimmerman circulation purposes. So Dave, Mark Harel, Kate Downer and Steve Keller—all of those people who were pagers—worked out of that office. While I was on vacation, Dave took over my office so he had a space away from the paging, because the paging was so intense. Dave had other things to deal with after he got the paging running.

So it was very interesting. Parish normally has a very small staff of ten. Since the fire, some people from the upstairs office that had been added to the staff after the fire, so we’re 14 by now. Since the first day after we opened, we’ve got close to 50 people, with the students included. We’ve got 50 employees in the building. For an introvert like me, I go in and I close my door. Now I always worked with my door closed, so it’s not like that has changed. Though people might think that I go in and lock myself in, but it’s not like that. It’s just the way I work. In fact when I first moved to Parish from Centennial, my office at Centennial was all the way down in the stacks, so I always had my door closed there. So at Parish I just kept my door closed because I get easily distracted by people walking by and talking. When I first moved to Parish someone made the comment that I wasn’t very friendly because I didn’t leave my door open all the time, but I always worked with my door closed because I get easily distracted by people walking by and talking. When I first moved to Parish someone made the comment that I wasn’t very friendly because I didn’t leave my door open all the time, but it’s not like that has changed. Though people might think that I am a bunker or submarine-type feel to it. Walking in some of the back rooms and corridors or through stacks of books, there were people, some familiar and some not, walking down these corridors. I thought the place was very confined to me. If people were walking by carrying stuff you’d have to lean to one side and say, “Excuse me, excuse me.” Every once in a while I’d see this line of three or four people coming towards me and I’d recognize another Zimmerman refugee. So it had this guise of a ship that had sunk and all the surrounding ships in its wake had to rescue these sailors or passengers that had been on board it. Every time I encountered a supervisor I was familiar with—I always reported to Dave Herzel or Ava—they’d have so much information to relate very quickly. “If you see so-and-so, tell them…” “I need to e-mail so-and-so and I don’t know if they’re in front of a computer or not.” So they’d give you these cryptic messages if you came across them. “So-and-so asked to call them.” Or “Do you remember this particular fact?” or “Did you happen to pick this up out of your office when you were at Centennial, the congestion there, just being around people in such strange states, both students and staff. But I have to say that the people at all the branch libraries were very gracious in terms of accommodating people.

Ava Kargacin
Manager, Circulation, Zimmerman Library

I was never so glad when finals were over. At least it was intermission when we were trying to do most of the stuff. I was just so happy; it was like my birthday present. My birthday’s June 20th and you said we would be back in the building by then. Actually I think it was a couple of days after, but it was close enough. Everything in Circulation was covered in plastic and there was dust all over, but I didn’t care. I was so happy to be back at my desk and not feel like the backpack woman, because that’s all we did. We kept going back and forth, Centennial to Parish, and I had my backpack and just carried everything with me, my notebooks, my schedules, because if people changed their schedules, I had to write it down. I really felt close to the homeless. I really knew how they felt, except I had food.

Aaron Blecha
Student Employee, Zimmerman Library

So in addition to working evenings at Parish, I did show up at Centennial to see if there was anything more to do or if I needed to go any place else. It was finals week, so students were in a bind. Myself, I had a lot of pressure because I had a lot of school work to do, but going into Centennial was very strange because it is a basement, underground library. It does have a bunker or submarine-type feel to it. Walking in some of the back rooms and corridors or through stacks of books, there were people, some familiar and some not, walking down these corridors. I thought the place was very confined to me. If people were walking by carrying stuff you’d have to lean to one side and say, “Excuse me, excuse me.” Every once in a while I’d see this line of three or four people coming towards me and I’d recognize another Zimmerman refugee. So it had this guise of a ship that had sunk and all the surrounding ships in its wake had to rescue these sailors or passengers that had been on board it. Every time I encountered a supervisor I was familiar with—I always reported to Dave Herzel or Ava—they’d have so much information to relate very quickly. “If you see so-and-so, tell them…” “I need to e-mail so-and-so and I don’t know if they’re in front of a computer or not.” So they’d give you these cryptic messages if you came across them. “So-and-so asked to call them.” Or “Do you remember this particular fact?” or “Did you happen to pick this up out of your office when you had the chance!” You realized in this age of hyper-communication that the real information transfer is still face-to-face. A lot of serendipity was involved. That was a very powerful event, people being at Centennial, the congestion there, just being around people in such strange states, both students and staff. But I have to say that the people at all the branch libraries were very gracious in terms of accommodating people.

Days after, while we were still in the building, I still felt like the backpack woman, because it was still very strange.
Evangel Oates and Sarah Stohr
Library Residents, University Libraries

Evangela: I was homeless. I was a wayward child after the fire. The fire happened April 30 and I didn’t get a space that was really my own until January. In that area we shared behind circulation; that desk I had there? Pat Fairchild was there originally then Michele Mals.

Sarah: Anyone that walked by would say, “Is Evangela here?” People I’d never seen in my life would sit down at that desk and do work. “Well, if Evangela’s not here.” With Evangela’s space it was a free-for-all.

E: If no one was there, you could sit down and use it. Before we got back into Zimmerman, I would go from Richard Lujan’s office in Parish to Centennial. There was a little space I could grab there and I would go back and forth. Later I tagged back and forth from Richard’s office to that free-for-all desk behind Circulation. I was losing stuff, if it wasn’t in folders before the fire. You know the history of Centennial Library project? I would go interview someone and I would not know where their stuff went. I’d look around. I’d walk from Centennial to Zimmerman and it would vanish. My flash drive? I left that so many times in so many computers. “Where was I last?” [Laughter]

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood
Interlibrary Loan

Joe: There were six of us in that little room in Centennial.

Kathryn: I came in to work on Wednesday or Thursday or whenever it was that I was told to come in and there were six of us plus everyone had a computer plus stacks of books and book carts in one of those group study carrels which is meant to hold maybe three or four people with laptops maximum and I was joking, “Well, I hope we are suspending the sexual harassment laws because [laughter] there’s no way we can avoid touching each other. I mean, Joe and I were practically sitting in each other’s laps. [Laughter] You didn’t need to pass the books, you could just reach. That’s how close it was in there.

Deborah Cole: Was it the size of this room [9 x 12 feet]?
J: It was about the same space but skinnier.
K: And the heat with all of our bodies plus six computers! If somebody wanted to get up, you had to make an announcement, “Getting up!” so everyone could scoot their chairs in.
J: After the semester was over, we split up into the room next to us; three of us stayed in one room.
K: We colonized the room next door.
J: Then a month later Bruce Neville told us, “Oh, there’s a room back here. We’re using it as a storage room, but you can use it now. It’s a little bigger.” It held about a hundred boxes.
K: Towering boxes from floor to ceiling. It was the room way back in the south corridor.
J: They had government publications and other science books that someone was supposed to go through to decide if they were going to catalog them. We were sharing an office with them. We were worried that they had mice and things in there, too.
D: You all were elbow to elbow, book to book, butt to butt, or whatever [laughter], initially. Are there any stories or thoughts about that?
K: Well, we’re kind of tethered to our computers. Everything happens through them. We had to have a fixed IP address. We had to have a fixed office, so we were never nomadic the way a lot of reference librarians were who just had a laptop and a little, wheely suitcase.
J: We had to open our mail outside the room we were in over at Centennial because it was too small and it kind of disturbed people because they were studying in the halls.
K: Bernadette Anglada is pretty energetic when she rips into those packages [laughter]. I used to stay out of her way when we were in the big office. “Watch out! She’s opening the mail!”
J: She can toss stuff around, the boxes and envelopes.
Libraries
July 3
BMS CAT personnel complete work at Zimmerman
- HVAC cleaning completed
- Begin schedule for test and balance of HVAC system
- Overhead scanner examined

July 5
Budget for basement rebuild developed with Office of Capital Projects
- Chavez-Grieves, structural engineers, examines basement and 1st floor slabs and walls and find no structural damage caused by

D: Well, you've had a rowdy time recalling those good old days. Maybe if I brought in three more people it would feel like home.
K: Yeah, because now that I'm the only one still at Centennial, I never see them at all anymore. Joe and I were right next to each other. I miss not having the chatter over the computers or hearing the updates on the dogs and the cats and the kids.

Consuelo and A.J. LaBelle
Student Employees, Print Resources
A.J: They moved us to Parish on the 2nd floor. It was terrible.
Consuelo: So many people, you know that little classroom? And we were all trying to adjust and make it our own.
A.J: There were three or four students and only one student computer, so it was kind of tense for a while because people would say, “Oh, it’s my work space,” or “No, it’s mine.” It was just among the students. I don’t think the staff really knew about it.

Deborah Cole: Or they may have been having their own issues.
A.J: Right, that’s what I was thinking, so we had our own moments like, “That’s my computer. What are you doing?”

C: Or, she’s getting in at 10:00, we better hurry to get there first,” so we could get work.
A.J: But it worked out pretty quickly. They got the computers as fast as they could. Now, it’s nice. There still aren’t enough computers, but I’ve got a computer so I’m happy.

C: One student who’d worked in our area before, Joella, once the fire happened she went to do shelving. She was the only student from before that came back. We have Rik’s [Burkard] students and we’re Kathy’s [Gienger] and Joella used to be Bing-Shan’s [Fazio] but now I think she’s Joanne’s [Donsbach] or something.

A.J: Most of the students were shelving. We’d say, “That’s our work. Leave it.”
D: You got a little territorial.
A.J: Yeah, territorial. “This is our work. You’ve got yours.”
C: That’s what I heard from everybody, even from CSVSR people. There was a lot of drama about people worrying about their work, saying, “We do that work faster than they do,” and getting mad. And this is just from other students at other places.
A.J: Yeah, we really had to redefine our boundaries.
D: Is it better now?
C: It’s much better. Not 100%.
A.J: It does wear on you, being in a cramped environment all the time. You’re basically fine with it, but you want them to hurry up and get the basement done. [Laughter]

Lee Byrne
Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS
Lee: One of the things that Karen Olson, our director, and Michele Steiner managed to do during all this was to get CAPS staff an office, a place to be during the summer, which was lucky for us—astoundingly fortunate for us—and … astoundingly odd. We were in what used to be a classroom. I had classes in this room in Mitchell Hall when I was a student. It was not a very large classroom, but it had been turned into an office. It had dividers and, I would say, it had enough room and divisions for five people and there were eight of us, minimum, sometimes there were nine of us in there. It was just … another surreal thing. I’m using that word a lot but that’s really what it was. It was really strange. And I had lots and lots to do over there, because by now we had the servers up. But! We were over there with no computers because we could take no computers out of the library, including laptops. It was, “No-oo-oo.” Because of the investigation and insurance and that. We were in a room that had two ethernet

It was terrible.

So many people; you know that little classroom? And we were all trying to adjust and make it our own.

Ellie Cushing-Griever
CAPS
"I remember the first time I walked into the office where all our staff was housed in Mitchell Hall and it was like a little classroom with eight or nine women in there all summer. It was so funny because you could feel the tension between them. It was way too close quarters. They were used to their own offices and their own spaces and they were sharing computers and desks. It was a riot watching them to deal with each other."


[Diaphragm]
connections and eight people. So I was pulling in every favor I could. Calling my pals at ITS [Information Technology Services] saying, “Yes, we need connections.” And they came and gave us all these connections. Karen found a printer we borrowed, which I was able to set up so we could all print to one printer. There were a couple of computers that were already in the office and for a while we were all bringing our own laptops from home. Then CASTL [Center for the Advancement of Scholarship in Teaching and Learning] loaned us some computers. Then pretty soon we were able to bring a couple of CAPS laptops over; so we ended up all having some sort of computer to use.

There were two phones and that was craziness as well because our CAPS phones in Zimmerman were forwarded over there. Two phones. We’d say, “What phone is ringing?” And what am I going to do with it?” [laughs] We made so many jokes because the staff was at that time all women. (We have one male staff member now.) We had “eight women in a box.” [laughs] Sometimes it really felt like it. And for some of us it was rough … I think everybody did the best they could in the circumstances. I’m one of the people that find it very difficult to work like that. And I tried my best to be good and sometimes was and sometimes wasn’t. But most of us did really well in conditions that were not easy for us given our normally spoiled circumstances with these big old offices we have.

Deborah Cole: It must have been odd being separated so far from the tutors.

L: We did not have the SUB all summer; we also had rooms in the Humanities Building. The English Department gave us rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The people over there were great, especially Amy Jamison at the English Department she was so wonderful. She worked with us so much. It was great. They gave us a closet where we could keep books. We had to get our textbooks from Zimmerman and took them over there.

D: So you came into Zimmerman in shifts, gradually unloading from here?

L: Yes. And we tried not to take too much stuff out. Beverly bought us all these new things at Zimmerman, then at Fine Arts, Vista Hall, then at Centennial, then at University Libraries.

Kathleen Keating
Reference Coordinator, University Libraries

We kind of liked Mitchell Hall because we were on the 1st floor. We had windows; we could see outside. We could walk out our door, walk out the door of the building and be at the Duck Pond. That piece was really nice. We could walk out our door, walk out the door and be at the Duck Pond. That piece was really nice. We could walk out our door, walk out the door and be at the Duck Pond.

On a typical day I could be at Mesa Vista Hall, then at Centennial, then at Zimmerman, then at Fine Arts, then at home.

KATHLEEN KEATING
Reference Coordinator, UL

“On a typical day I could be at Mesa Vista Hall, then at Centennial, then at Zimmerman, then at Fine Arts, then at home.”

KATHLEEN KEATING
Reference Coordinator, UL
Sever, Carol and I visited PML Friday morning to scope out the space (with Susan Magie) that you indicated could be available for some of the Print Resources and LIBROS group employees—and it looks like some of the RMBA folks too. We estimate that the classroom will accommodate 6 from the Acquisitions group, which we can set-up receiving in the work room (2/3 more people), and cataloging (5-7 more people) and storage in some of the carrels downstairs…. We are still working on the serials checkin function and may use your workstation in the downstairs work room for the short term if that doesn’t create too much of a problem.

Obviously, many details remain to be sorted out, but I wanted to thank you for your generosity and future hospitality. All the PML folks we have contacted have been very helpful and eager to do whatever they can to contribute to the cause. Thank you, thank you, thank you…We will be in touch.

Nancy and Sever

The LIT Service Center line has been successfully forwarded to a phone at Parish Library…. If you are a relocated worker, please note in your message your current location: room number, building, and nearest phone. If you are not a relocated worker, please note having done so, so we know the exact location. We are still working on the serials checkin function and may use your workstation in the downstairs work room for the short term that doesn’t create too much of a problem.

Obviously, many details remain to be sorted out, but I wanted to thank you for your generosity and future hospitality. All the PML folks we have contacted have been very helpful and eager to do whatever they can to contribute to the cause. Thank you, thank you, thank you…We will be in touch.

Nancy and Sever

To: DRAT-L
Subject: Current approved priority list

Current approved priority list

July 7

Twila Firmature
Coordinator, eResources

We did not have to interrupt any services after the first week. Centennial gave us a room on campus. That helped a little. It was crazy. On a typical day I could be at Mesa Vista Hall, then at Centennial, then at Zimmerman, then at Fine Arts, then home. It was scattered. I didn’t feel like I was very productive at all. I couldn’t concentrate. I didn’t feel productive at all. I couldn’t concentrate. I didn’t feel like I was very productive at all. I wasn’t feeling a very productive at all. I didn’t feel like I was very productive at all. I couldn’t concentrate. I didn’t feel like I was very productive at all. I didn’t feel like I was very productive at all. I couldn’t concentrate.

I felt guilty about it. I think about people in Acquisitions, how they get right into what they needed to do and BooOm! they’re back into their jobs and they’re working like dogs. And I was just floaing thinking, “I don’t know where I’m supposed to be or what I’m supposed to do.” It was very strange. I’d do Fire Watch, my reference hours and the Mesa Vista satellite in his office—it was just freezing—I didn’t want to work there. So I’d go home and work and then I felt guilty. People weren’t interested in being trained in the middle of all this.

I felt guilty about it. I think about people in Acquisitions, how they get right into what they needed to do and “Boom!” they’re back into their jobs and they’re working like dogs. And I was just floating thinking, “I don’t know where I’m supposed to be or what I’m supposed to do.” It was very strange. I’d do Fire Watch, my reference hours and the Mesa Vista satellite in his office—it was just freezing—I didn’t want to work there. So I’d go home and work and then I felt guilty. People weren’t interested in being trained in the middle of all this.
do there. I was at Centennial with a laptop in George's office in this office—it was just freezing. I had to sit there and work there too much. So I'd work there. And then Linke moved into the office that I was in. And then Linke moved out. And then Linke moved back. So I had

Reference suite in Centennial. That helped a little. But it was too

on where to turn your timesheets in
during the fall semester. I didn't move into this office until

fire-related phone moves. These have

in your message your current location: room number, building, and

'Twila Firmature

CTC: 620-259-6278

e-mail and a voice mail, please note having done so, so we know the

Pastel, Monica

Libraries, and

AMANDA

as of Thursday, June 2

phone at Parish Library.... If you are a relocated worker, please note

The LIT Service Center line has been successfully forwarded to a

Purchases:  For any purchases, fire-

related or otherwise, please follow the

that they were supposed to be. They

and not separate problems.

local phone number. The more

related to the new computer lab

AUTO LIBRARY SERVICES

purchased, I feel

been related to the new computer lab

at THO. I thought they were supposed
to be there. They didn't move into this office until

Brian in his office—it was just freezing. I didn't want to work

“... we really had to redefine

our boundaries.”

altered areas

cause.  Thank you, thank you, thank you...We will be in touch.

Obviously, many details remain to be sorted out, but I wanted to thank you for

people), and cataloging (5-7 more people) and storage in some of the carrels

in some of the carrels (along with 5-7

I currently am working with the State Library to get additional computers on site.

Please see the approved priority list for computers in the attached spreadsheet.

SUBJECT:  Current approved priority list

TO:  DRAT-L

Peter, Nancy, and Sever, Carol and I visited PML Friday morning to scope out the space (with

Susan Magee) that you indicated could be available for some of the Print

Resources and LIBROS group employees—and it looks like some of the

RMBA folks too.  We estimate that the classroom will accommodate 6 from

Sever, Carol and I visited PML Friday morning to scope out the space (with

The LIT Service Center line has been successfully forwarded to a

the more people we could have working there.  It helped a little, but it was

I felt guilty about it. It think about people in Acquisitions, how

who did the work. I think about the personal contact. After that, I

I'd do Fire Watch, my reference hours and the Mesa Vista satellite

I'd think about people in Acquisitions, how they got right into what they

I don't know where I'm supposed to be or what I'm supposed to

I didn't feel like I was very productive at all. I couldn't concentrate. I didn't

It was scattered. I didn't feel like I was very productive at all. I couldn't concentrate. I didn't

I was at Centennial with a laptop in George's office to begin with, but it was so cold

I'm not always aware of since I

the tasks and the projects, but

People leave. Well, at this

48

wasn't always a good room for us to hold them in.

We needed that personal contact. After that we

We did not have to interrupt any services after the first week. Centennial gave us a room

I register the tasks and the projects, but

most people also needed that social contact. That's what I

tend to think about. I think about the personal contact. After that, I

I didn't feel like I was very productive at all. I couldn't concentrate. I didn't

I felt guilty about it. It think about people in Acquisitions, how they got right into what they

was just floating thinking, "I don't know where I'm supposed to be or what I'm supposed to

I'd be thinking about what needs getting done. I register the tasks and the projects, but

I register the tasks and the projects, but

I was working, I'd be thinking about what needs getting done. I register the tasks and the projects, but

I was just thinking about how I

centrefolded, very much more

and then

I'd think about people in Acquisitions, how they got right into what they

It was very strange. I'd do Fire Watch, my reference hours and the Mesa Vista satellite

I'd think about people in Acquisitions, how they got right into what they

I'd be sitting there at work and

I did. It was weird. It just wasn't the same because everyone was more

I'd be sitting there at work and

I feel guilty.

felt guilty.

People weren't interested in being trained in the middle of all this.

Usually our meetings, if they end early, just end. People leave. Well, at this

I felt guilty about it. It think about people in Acquisitions, how they got right into what they

I was at Centennial with a laptop in George's office in this office—it was just freezing. I had to sit there and work there too much. So I'd work there. And then Linke moved into the office that I was in. And then Linke moved out. And then Linke moved back. So I had

Reference suite in Centennial. That helped a little. But it was too
Evangelia Oates and Sarah Stohr
Library Residents, University Libraries

Sarah: One of the things I think was really helpful for me after I got here was after the fire when everyone in Zimmerman reference got moved back behind circulation. There was Heidi Perea, Evangelia, Michele Mals, Annalise Sklar, Monica Dorame, Dan Barkley and all the Government Information Department (GID) students all in that one area. Not only did I get to know them, but anytime I had a question there were twenty-seven thousand people there to answer it. [Laughter]

Evangelia: You couldn’t even have a thought without someone interfering.

S: That was really hard, to sit there and try to get something done while everyone is like, “Hi, what are you doing?” and conversations going on everywhere. So that was not at all what I expected to walk into, having a job. [Laughter]

Kathleen Keating
Reference Coordinator, University Libraries

Kathleen: Whenever I think of the basement, I still see my office like it was, you know, bounding down the stairs and turning left at the corner and the interlibrary loan people and Barb Rosen are still there and then my office. I can still see it. I set everything up in my new office here at the north end of Reference just like that office. Deborah Cole: Do you sometimes feel like you’re down there until you go out the door?

K: No, no. It’s different because the people aren’t there. Before, whenever I moved offices, I never made a big deal about it. It was always, “Okay, whatever.” I’ve probably had 14 offices in 18 years. But this one, because it was deliberately taken away, I think that really made it stick. Before, I always had some choice in the matter or I knew where I was going, but this was totally out of anybody’s control, out of our control, and everything was just ripped apart.

But I always thought that I’d return to that office, that it would be fixed up and we would be back in. But there was a funny moment when we finally did unpack and I moved into this new office. I found ILL’s paper towel holder and a toaster in my boxes of files. I thought, “Where did this toaster come from? Is this a freebie I get because I survived the fire?” [Laughter] Then I took it in and it was Joe’s toaster, so I had to give it back.

I still miss the people. I’m more isolated in a way. The ILL people had a great sense of humor; we had fun. They worked extremely hard but always had time to laugh. It’s hard to leave that.

D: I know. There are so many of my colleagues who I have to make an effort to see now.

K: The patterns of movement have changed. I like the space here, but for me it’s missing Barb and Bernadette, Frances and Kathryn, Randy and Joe. You could always say “Good morning.” We had coffee—the “Zimmerman Roast.” I miss that and don’t have that now. I come in and just go to my office and start working.

D: You can’t keep in touch with your colleagues in the same way. It seems like a vacancy, like “How did that happen? Where are they?” It’s bizarre, in an institution, to work with people on a regular basis and to realize you don’t know where they are located.

Susan Magee
Coordinator/Webs Services and Customer Studies

I did the tours of Parish for the Dean candidates. One candidate came through on a day when everyone was pretty much there. So we went upstairs and I showed him the hallway outside my office. Rik Burkard and Magoo Shoulderblade and Gail Lane and a few students were there. He said, “Gee, this is your regular working area?” And they said, “Yeah, because we’re displaced from Zimmerman.” Then we went into the classroom where they are cheek to jowl and Carol Renfo, Kathy Gienger, Sandy Provencio and a couple of their students were the only ones there. And the center of the room was given over to book trucks. And he said, “There’re too many people in here.” And I said, “Well, this isn’t everyone who works in here regularly. There are at least two or three other people.” And they said, “Yeah, there’s Ross Sutter and Joanne Dondbach” and named a couple of other people. And he just shook his head and said, “I don’t know how you people are doing this.” When we went downstairs into the RMBA and Associates (architect’s office overseeing the remodel) for Phase One, 1st Floor remodel project, time and materials July 10-26 Library staff volunteers re-shelve books on Zimmerman 2nd and
Consuelo and A.J. LaBelle

Student Employees, Print Resources

A: One good thing, though, all of us being crammed together, I really got to learn about the other people in the department. I'd always hear these names like "Carol Renfro" and think, "Who is she?" I can actually apply faces to names now, so that's been pretty interesting.

Consuelo: We definitely got to know people better, Rik, Gail, everybody there.

A: You don't feel so much like a student worker anymore, more like a real worker just because we're here with them. You can relate to the same things sometimes. Though we may have a hard time spending 20-25 hours a week in that space, those people have to do it for 40 hours a week. Ouch! That can be rough.

C: It'll be great when we have the new space. We'll have our own computers, own printer.

A: One good thing, though, all of us being crammed together, I really got to learn about the other people in the department. I'd always hear these names like "Carol Renfro" and think, "Who is she?" I can actually apply faces to names now, so that's been pretty interesting.

Aj: I am going to miss them all; it's going to seem empty. I felt okay when I was transferred to a new job over in Parish because all of my Zimmerman buddies were there. I wasn't going to miss anybody. And I'm beginning to think that on the day they move back to Zimmerman maybe I'll move back, too. [Laughter] I will be a refugee somewhere else.

Marie: There are two people who have stated quite emphatically that they don't want to come back.

D: They like their displacement. And one person was actually rather reflective about it to me. She said she was trying to examine her reluctance to coming back. She said, "It's kind of weird making room for us and emptying out the student carrels, just the ongoing day-to-day stuff, it's been amazing.

She said she was trying to examine her reluctance to coming back. She said, "It's kind of weird making room for us and emptying out the student carrels, just the ongoing day-to-day stuff, it's been amazing.

Making room for us and emptying out the student carrels, just the ongoing day-to-day stuff, it's been amazing.

Deborah: It's interesting, too, because that's the longest running "displacement home." You stayed a community long enough to work out some things.

Claire-Lise: In a way, the re-organization was displaced; it was not solved; it was not discussed; it just stopped. But when you move back into Zimmerman, you know, it comes back with you. It comes back with you.

Me: The re-organization did some very specific things. It broke up one entity and scattered it in various other places and established several of those functions in a different entity. But with the physical re-building in the basement, the areas have been brought physically together again. In early discussions, a wall was proposed to show that we are separate [laughter] because we were separated! As it turns out, in the final design, there is no wall. So the entities are side by side. They're in the same room, but they're in totally different divisions of the library. There's that part, again, of the unresolved re-organization, and in re-building, it's still confused.
**A BELTANE FIRE**

A Beltane fire, but
Not one of celebration.
No, destruction.

We care for our own.
Come, we will find a place
For ZIM people, books.

Stay here while they clean.
Together, we will help you
Keep people, books safe.

Offices, desks, keys.
Returning books in order.
Coffee, a break room.

Renewing some old
Acquaintances, and also
Making some new friends.

Somehow because of
Tragedy we truly are
One Big Happy “Branch.”

**A BELTANE FIRE**

There was no pattern.
That was a time.

**EVANGELA OATES**
Library Resident

**ODE TO MITCHELL**

(To the tune of the UNM Fight Song)

Hail to thee Mitchell Hall
Our summer home was you.
Marching down the hall we go
Running from the smell below
Crunching roaches as we go
Crunch! Crunch! Crunch!

8 women in a box were we
Craziness abounding
Fighting ever, yielding never!
Well! Well! Well!

**CAPS STAFF**
(those 8 women in a box)

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(those 8 women in a box)
HENRY JENSEN, Security Guard, Santa Fe Protective Services, Inc. and his wife, MONICA JENSEN

July 24
Proposal for insurance coverage for fire watch cost submitted to Risk Management and UNM insurance carrier

July 30
Fire master plan meeting

August 1
Fourth library-wide meeting held at SUB

∆

Existing fire and water protection

“All our policies and procedures went out the window.”

ELLIE CLUSHING-CRUVER

Pat B.
Receptionist, Office of the Dean

I was able to give Ed a little support when more people started coming into the building. We all had to sign in with the guards as we came in and out. When there were only ten people, it didn’t matter that they just signed in on a blank sheet of paper. But when more and more employees and contractors and such were being added to the list of who was allowed in, those poor guards didn’t have even lined paper to write anything on. I made sign-in/sign-out sheets, organized with areas to list department, the time, and whether they were coming in or going out. I learned people’s names by doing that. It was just one of those little things that the guards didn’t think to ask for or maybe thought they couldn’t ask for I don’t know. Ed had much bigger things to worry about than whether or not the guards had a sign-out sheet that was more useful than a piece of paper. So I started keeping up with that.

Evangela Oates
Library Resident, University Libraries

Deborah Cole: How was reference after the fire?

Evangela: It was easy, because Dan was doing the scheduling. He was scheduling Fire Watch and the tents. But reference didn’t change much. People were asking about the fire. Some people were just doing their work. I remember I had reference at Centennial I don’t know why, because I never would have scheduled myself at Centennial. I don’t know how that happened. I was supposed to be on Fire Watch and that was the priority. If you don’t do anything else, I don’t do anything else.
you were going to do Fire Watch. So I was at Fire Watch and apparently people were calling and fussing at Dan because I wasn't at the reference desk there. [Laughter] That was the fire! Some of us from Zimmerman were scheduled in Centennial; we could work on that desk, but I was on Fire Watch ... So they called Dan and said, "She needs to be over here!" And he said, "She's not going anywhere!" I think it happened with a few other people, too, but it seemed to happen to me twice, though. And I couldn't be at two places at once. [Laugh]

I remember one day I went to the Willard Reading Room and I forgot my reference time. I was sitting there and all of a sudden realized it ... oops! I slinked over there, "Sorry, folks." But there was no habit. You didn't have a set schedule. It could change at any moment. You would always have to make these mental notes.

Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean

Deborah Cole: What moments in the recovery process stand out for you?

Nancy: I guess when the BMS CAT folks came on board and our first concern was getting the materials out—collections on the shelves and materials in work areas. The call came to let employees in to begin packing out work areas. The employees would have 15 minutes to get what was on their desktops and box up everything according to Priority #1, #2 and #3 to be shipped off to local warehouses. The Priority #1 materials would probably have a chance of getting back to employees in thirty days. The rest of the materials may not be seen for six months—a long six months. And, of course, now we’re looking at a year and a half! I went back down with Dan, Anne and others and met with the employees in certain work units. Book trucks, boxes and tape were available. “You've got fifteen minutes to pack up your Priority #1 items.” Some people just froze and didn’t know what to take. It was the first time they were seeing their work areas and the extent of the damage. It was shocking and startling and they just had 15 minutes to get everything out. It was hard for some folks to focus. Where were the invoices? Where were the materials that were ready for cataloging, correspondence, anything you needed to pick up and take care of? When you think about having fifteen minutes—you know, walk out of your office on a Friday afternoon and think that the next time you return there’s been an event like this and you have 15 minutes to grab what you can.

Then the next major impact for me was when they did some tests on the drywall and they told us the walls in the basement were coming down. Well, that is a very different situation. But it was also one of those moments where I felt, “So, there could be an opportunity here.” As awful as it is, obviously, it was, “Okay let’s think about what we could do here, what we could do differently here.” Fortunately we’d done a lot of planning—the Space Plan, the focus groups with the students and what they wanted in library space, and we could redesign our work areas to be more efficient. And I suppose the worker in me clicked in at that point: something to do and all this is going to be better.

Deborah Cole: You had to record things like the burnt ceiling and such?

Ed: I documented the spalling* and the books and periodicals themselves that were burnt and the shelving that was burnt, the walls. I did that because I felt as the Facilities Manager it was part of my job to document what was going on with the facility. So that’s what I did. That’s why I took a lot of pictures and as far as documentation, we have the minutes from meetings and other documents for what actually went on, for the whole remediation process.

Ed Castillo-Padilla
Manager, Facilities Services

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Russ Cole
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

I remember another time where these construction guys were pushing a large plastic cart of dirt toward the circulation area. I was getting mixed up about which way they were hauling it. I thought they were bringing it into the building. I couldn’t figure out what they would need mud for. I thought, “Maybe there’s something down there that smells so bad they need to bury it in mud.” It was several hours before I realized they were hauling the dirt out. It was from that garden area at the bottom of the stairwell.

*The breaking of pieces of concrete from the surface of a structural element that is exposed to high and rapidly rising temperatures experienced in fires.

Then the next major impact for me was when they did some tests on the drywall and they told us the walls in the basement were coming down. Well, that is a very different situation. But it was also one of those moments where I felt, “So, there could be an opportunity here.” As awful as it is, obviously, it was, “Okay let’s think about what we could do here, what we could do differently here.” Fortunately we’d done a lot of planning—the Space Plan, the focus groups with the students and what they wanted in library space, and we could redesign our work areas to be more efficient. And I suppose the worker in me clicked in at that point: something to do and all this is going to be better.
Ed Castillo-Padilla, Manager, Facilities Services

Louie and Bonifacio continued their regular duties with mail, shipping and receiving, but had to assist me with work that required ongoing and daily interaction in various weather conditions (it started to warm up considerably in spring/summer). They also had to work outside at the north side of Zimmerman and on the south side of Parish Library. Only their respect and goodwill and willingness to help. Think about the number of people they have contact with throughout the whole library on any given day. They experienced the same stresses as everyone else but you never saw it. They were tireless when you know they must have just been exhausted, physically. They probably had more impact on this whole project, and I include Ed Padilla in that, than anyone else. They were tireless when you know they must have just been exhausted, physically. They experienced the same stress as everyone else but you never saw it. They just embodied this incredible service ethic. “What can I do?” Never a complaint about how they were being treated or what they were being asked to do.

Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research

Deborah: When we got back into our offices, finally, there was this subtle sense that everything was not quite where it had been, that it had all been cleaned and put back basically in the right places, but just not enough to be noticeable. I think we all had that experience, at least those of us who were able to come back to an office that still existed. You looked around and thought, “They tried.” [Laughter]

Heidi: I was just grateful for the dusting; I didn’t care where they put stuff.

Deborah Bauerschmidt, Michele Mals, and Wendy Pedersen)

The Fire Watch Follies are held in Zimmerman West Wing.

Herb: “They tried.” [Laughter]

“Ed is incredible; he’s very organized and detail-oriented … and he’s great at hearing people and genuinely dealing with their issues.”

Nancy Dennis

Assistant Dean

Ed Castillo-Padilla and Barabara Aragon

Ed Castillo-Padilla, Manager, Facilities Services

Nancy Dennis

Assistant Dean

Barbara Aragon

Custodian, Zimmerman Library

Every since I worked at the library—once I starting working days—I’d never return to the back part of the first floor that they’re now made into the new reference area. When I went back there the first time, I emptied trash. They hadn’t emptied trash at all since before the fire, because the fire happened in the evening. So I would pick up the trash can, empty the trash, and put the can right down perfectly in the spot where it had been. You couldn’t tell it had been moved. [Laughter]

The Firewatch Task Force (Herb Bauerschmidt, Deborah Cole, Michele Mals, and Wendy Pedersen), The Fire Watch Follies are held in Zimmerman West Wing

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Manager, Facilities Services

Louie Perez and Bonifacio, Facilities Services, were everywhere. They continue to impress me so much with what they do and their attitude about it. When we were moving the reserve books out, it was Tuesday or Wednesday of the week following the fire. Louie and Boni were a part of that, setting up reserves over at Parish. Grab, the furniture they have moved in and out and over to Parish and ZIM and over to CSEL during the last year. Just incredible. But you know, it’s their attitude. I never saw any sign of temper or frustration from them. Only their respect and goodwill and willingness to help. Think about the number of people they have contact with throughout the whole library on any given day. “Hi, how’re you doing? What can I do to help?” They were the carriers of that attitude. They probably had more impact on this whole project, and I include Ed Padilla in that, than anyone else. They were tireless when you know they must have just been exhausted, physically. They experienced the same stress as everyone else but you never saw it. They just embodied this incredible service ethic. “What can I do?” Never a complaint about how they were being treated or what they were being asked to do.

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Susan Magee
Web Services and Customer Studies Coordinator

Deborah Cole: Do you have any Louie and Boni stories?

Susan: Obviously, they were in and out of Parish during that time. They sweated buckets in our loading zone. I know Sue advocated for most of the summer to try to get a tent put out there over the space they worked in so they didn’t have to sweat buckets. But that never happened for whatever reason. If the president of the University can get tents put on the lawn … but let’s not go there. They were always around and always cheerful about it, almost without fail. And I think their attitude was pretty contagious. If those two could work in the way they had to work and still put a good face on it—that was inspirational and certainly set a tone for anybody else who had gripes. “At least you’re not sitting out there in the 90-degree weather! You’ve got a nice air-conditioned office; it may not be what you’re used to, but …”

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood
Interlibrary Loan

Joe: It was kind of awkward for Bonifacio and Louie because they had to go back and forth to Centennial. They had to bring the books and articles we retrieved back over to Parish or Zimmerman to mail them out. We got books in and they brought them to Centennial; we shipped books out and they came to get them.

Kathryn: Tons of back and forth went through them. It was insane. Twice a day or more.

Deborah Cole: How did that work at Centennial? They have an elevator.

Joe: They do, but one time it was broken and Louie and Bonifacio had to carry the books down and up the stairs. So it was pretty awkward at that time.

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Initially a variety of people had volunteered to page, but eventually the paging crew stabilized. It was Steve Keller, Kate Downer, myself and other volunteers, but the three of us were the core crew taking responsibility of accessing the accounts. LIT [Library Information Technology] very quickly put together an online paging request form. We pulled books twice a day; that was the normal procedure. We’d access the e-mail account first thing in the morning, all of the patron requests from the afternoon and night. So the morning page was always larger than the afternoon page. Then we’d divide the requests into 1st floor Zimmerman and 2nd floor Zimmerman and put them in call number order to facilitate accessing them quickly, because although I didn’t have any concerns with my health, it did make sense to limit staff time in Zimmerman. At first, as a student, I was allowed to page, but there came a point when the Fire Marshal, I don’t know if it was because of health, safety or insurance reasons, but only staff could be in the building. For a time they wouldn’t allow students, which caused a bit of a burden, so Russ Cole, Ava Kargacin, Rebs Bauerschmidt and others did the paging.

At times it was overwhelming. On Friday afternoons by two or three o’clock, Kate, Steve and I would be sitting in that little office and we weren’t even talking, we were all just staring out the window. We did a lot of time on the computer and had very little real down-time.

And, now, the legacy or descendant of that paging process is the government documents and the Deweys on B1 and B2 in Zimmerman. So the process is still alive and well.

Kathryn Wood
Interlibrary Loan

It’s hard to be an advocate for books when the only resources you have are the online ones. At the temporary reference desks, I’d start saying, “But, now it’s not all in the databases. Okay, well, it’s not all in the databases, but right now all you can have are the databases.” [Laughter] Most of those early reference shifts in the SUB were people coming up and some of them wanted to know what was going on. But some people just came up and said, “We feel so terrible.” I used to say, “I’m going to draw another little box here for the reference stats, ‘Expressions of Sympathy.’”

“I think it should be a part of our response that we recommend folks regularly check our (and CAPS) web site for information updates. Get them used to visiting our home pages during this unusual time. We also received some very nice sympathy comments so I made a special column on the stats sheet.”

NANCY PETRONUS
Reference, Zimmerman Library
E-mail, May 3, 2006

Deborah Cole: So reference in the SUB was basically the same as usual!

Eva Kargacin: It was very much like it was when we finally moved back into Zimmerman; we still didn’t have the resources in terms of print journals. So the only difference was that they could walk in and sit down and use computers. We still had to say, “We don’t have any print journals and the ready reference is gone.” We could have stayed in the SUB and it would have been the same. We just showed them how to do ILL online.

Sarah: I started on September 1 and did not see our reference collection until January. Every time I was on the reference desk shadowing a librarian, I’d look around and you could see that one temporary range in the lobby of Zimmerman and nothing else. It was interesting to me that operations could be almost normal without having a reference collection in full force.

E: Doing instruction it’s been kind of hard, having to say, “Well, you can’t get any of these if you can’t find them online, don’t waste your time looking for them here in print.” There’s been a lot of Interlibrary Loan publicity.

S: The last few classes I taught, at the beginning before I even explained why, I’d just say, “Go to the ILL site, register as a first-time user. Just do it.” We’d spend the first three minutes getting them all registered. Then I’d say, “There was a FIRE! You’re not going to find anything in print! Don’t question just do it.”

Ava Kargacin
Circulation, Zimmerman Library

But then it was funny because we still had to page because we couldn’t let patrons walk upstairs. We had to keep explaining to people, “No, you can’t walk upstairs, you just have to let us go get it.”

It’s amazing how many professors just want to browse and just stare you down. “Well, I don’t know what I want; I just want to browse.” “Well, you’ve got to get inventive and figure it out! I can’t let you browse.”

Evangela Oates and Sarah Stohr
Library Residents, University Libraries
A lot of people did know what was happening, but they couldn’t figure out why they couldn’t go upstairs and borrow. I would look at them and say, “You see that helmet on my head? This is not a fashion statement. The reason I have this on is to go upstairs and get your books.” And, actually right now we still do that with Government Docs, in B2. And still, I’ve had two professors that can’t figure out why they can’t browse. They say, “When I’m down there I see the stuff I need.” And I say, “Well, you’re not going to see it, because you can’t go down.” Even now, a year later, they can’t go down to B2. We still go down and pull their books for them. Every morning, Steve or Aaron pull the pages. It’s a lot of work and just like with browsing, people find out there are a lot of books they don’t really need. All those books they pulled! Well, they don’t need all the books I pulled either. “I just gave you twelve documents and you all find out there are a lot of books they don’t really need. All those books they pulled?”

Evans, that’s not a fashion statement.

A lot of people did know what was happening, but they couldn’t figure out why they couldn’t browse. They say, “I just gave you twelve documents and you find out there are a lot of books they don’t really need. All those books they pulled?”

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Evans, that’s not a fashion statement.
Anonymous reference desk patrons have had to hear the hammering noises, and it is on schedule for installation of anchors power actuated anchoring tools. Out on the west side of the library, the new concrete celing slab for the new fire sprinkler system, and other mechanical components. The priority will be to install the compact shelving in the periodicals area in order to let us reshelve the materials returning from Texas more rapidly.

LINDA LEWIS, COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 31 Hammering, drilling, painting, people in hardhats, people with building diagrams: all signs of progress. The new periodicals area will have compact shelving in almost all available shelving areas. The companies working on the compact shelving and on the construction are working closely together.

The priority will be to install the compact shelving in the periodicals area in order to let us reshelve the materials returning from Texas more rapidly.

LINDA LEWIS

UNM Winter

December 15 UNM Winter

JUNE 5, 2007

Yesterday, the parking lot north of Zimmerman Library was reconfigured to accommodate a construction staging area. Overall project management is the responsibility of UNM Office of Capital Projects. FRAN WILKINSON, INTERIM DEAN

JUNE 15 The fire alarm system, throughout Zimmerman Library, is no longer functional. All floors in Zimmerman are now under fire watch, including the West Wing. UNM Alarms has maintained the old system for as long as they could, but the alarm system has deteriorated beyond repair. Zimmerman will have a new alarm system as part of the basement rebuild project. ED CASTILLO-PADILLA FACILITIES SERVICES

JUNE 22 Zimmerman Library basement rebuild project is in full swing. We are now experiencing the associated noises with the rebuild project that includes the installation of anchors into the concrete ceiling slab for the new fire sprinkler system, and other mechanical components. Construction crews will also soon be using power actuated anchoring tools that produce a noticeable short loud blast. We experienced this same loud noise last year when work was completed on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors for supporting above ceiling grid wiring bundles. Patrons troubled by the noise may want to use either the West Wing reading rooms, or one of our branch libraries. ED CASTILLO-PADILLA

JUNE 27 CONSTRUCTION: The Sounds of Progress – Construction is underway in the basement of Zimmerman, as you can tell by the drilling and hammering noises, and it is on schedule for completion by early October...

COLLECTIONS: Quieter Progress - Selectors have identified the titles that are priorities to replace, and orders are going out to vendors... We’re planning how we will arrange delivery of the purchased materials with the return of the trucks from Texas, but still do not know enough to make firm plans.

LINDA LEWIS, COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT
Ellee Cushing-Cruver  
Student Employee, CAPS

People were heartbroken that they couldn’t get their appointments that last week of spring semester. Eventually people found us and we got out e-mails campus-wide to let people know where we were. We kind of threw everything out the window and tutored anything we could. “If you come in, we’ll try.”

As it started to come together, the summer really went pretty well because the staff was stuck in one building and we were tutoring in another, so it was a very independent environment and we really didn’t have too many problems.

Lee Byrne  
Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

The tutors were over in the Humanities Building and we had receptionists working there with makeshift set-ups to log students in and out. Every once in a while, one of us staff people would think, “Maybe we should go over and see how tutoring is going.” [Laughter] We’re so used to just walking out and there they are. They were far away. But CAPS did as much tutoring in those odd circumstances as we did in the previous summer. It was just amazing.

Ellee Cushing-Cruver  
Student Employee, CAPS

Our Director, Karen Olson, had been able to come up here and retrieve our laptops so we used them for tutoring and scheduling. The English Department was just great giving us a storage closet to hold all our textbooks and rooms to tutor in. It was a really nice summer. I liked it! As we’ve been gearing up for summer now, everybody feels like “Let’s go to Mitchell Hall! Let’s go to Humanities! Let’s get out of here for our summer!” It was so nice.

Evangelia Oates and Sarah Stohr  
Library Residents, University Libraries

Sarah: During the winter break of 2006/07, I ended up unpacking a huge amount of boxes, shelves, books, which was not in the resident job description, and getting bossed around by Dan. It was great. We were putting things back into the new reference area. I had body aches. Muscles were aching that I didn’t know I had on my arms. And Dan was fussing at me and yelling and harassing. And I’d yell, “Dan Barkley, knock it off!” And he’d cool down for a minute but then he’d right back at it. [Laughter] I had a constant neck ache.

Evangelia: I guess he had confidence in you; when I offered to help I was totally ignored.

S: It’s cause I had these “guns” [slaps arms] working. Every day I’d complain, “Isn’t there some sort of worker’s compensation I can get for my pains?”

E: It would have been nice for that person who does chair massage over near the SUB, it would have been nice for the administration to have had that guy come by. Pay for it. Maybe the massage community, especially people in massage school, they might have come and rubbed your body, Sarah.

S: There was a three-week period where I thought it was going to break.

Deborah Cole: And this Fall there will be the Pack Back of the journals.

S: There better be twelve masseuses down there. We did not learn about that in library school either. Luckily I had a job one year during which I learned this nice little rhyme: “Bend with knees to lift with ease.” I kept telling myself that, “Bend your knees, Stohr!”

Sarah: During my summer classes, and some of my friends’ classes, there were going to be these big research papers and there wasn’t anywhere to do the research so professors had to change the syllabus. Research methods had to change quite a bit. I had a Western European Politics course that had a big paper and the professor wanted us to read books. Since we couldn’t, he changed his style to let us research on the Internet. That was a big move for him because he wanted us to read books. It was a big stretch for my summer classes that wanted us to do research. It worked out, though; everybody did what they had to.
Ed Castillo-Padilla
Manager, Facilities Services

Deborah Cole: Are you still documenting things?

Ed: Yeah, yeah. It’s slowed down a little bit because we’re not actually doing anything now, everything in the basement is the same. We’re doing conservation on the murals and the Julius Ruhlshoven painting in the West Wing. That’ll be finished in April. I’ve been documenting that and that’s been enjoyable to do. We’re working on schematics with architects right now to work up the new design for the basement. Once they start construction again, we’ll get back and do photo documentation of that process.

Ava Kargacin
Circulation, Zimmerman Library

Things I took for granted! I’d take books to the bindery in Zimmerman’s basement. Now I walk over to Parish with the books. I walk there every day instead of running downstairs.

When we have marking problems? Over to Parish. Things we took for granted? It’s hard, too, because we’re still split between Parish and here. But I’m so glad I’m here and not smashed together like in a matchbox.

I don’t care if we don’t have a basement. I don’t care that we still have to page downstairs. I’m just glad to be in my building. This is good.

Kate Downer
Daytime Shelving Supervisor, Circulation, Zimmerman Library

At first, it took us about 45 minutes to page one book. This included work on the part of many people. We had to print out the request, look up the book to verify it was available, print out the information for the team actually pulling the books. And books could only be pulled when Fire Watch was happening. The pulled items had to be wheeled to Parish, collated with the request, holds placed, and moved downstairs to Parish’s circulation desk. Then the holds had to be maintained, pulled when not picked up and shelved temporarily at Parish. Often, a patron didn’t yet have an account with us, so there was a lot of e-mail. Or a book couldn’t be found and we had to send the patron to ILL. Paging from the basements continues, but we now average about 45 minutes a day.

Paging Statistics Summary

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At least 33% of UL employees will remain displaced until ZIM basement is reopened.

Nancy Dennis, e-mail, April 16, 2007

46 or 33% of UL employees will remain displaced until ZP9 basement is reopened.
Fire/Watch Book Group
Claire-Lise Benaud and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
Pat B., Office of the Dean
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access

Mary Ellen: We talked about how the library administration got completely subsumed and busy and focused on the fire remediation and that was also a pretext to not deal with internal issues like the re-organization or even to look at other library issues. Fire remediation just came to the forefront and that’s what it seems to me, the library administration has been totally focused on since then, and trying to hire a new dean. We aren’t really looking at public services or technical services. It’s all dealing with the emergency. The things that normally administrators would concentrate on got put on the back burner.

Claire-Lise: When Nancy Dennis says, “Well, the machine started to work again,” that’s it all. It was the only machine. It was not issues. It’s not, “Where should we rank in the ARL?” “Shall we be a full depository library?” All those big issues.

Deborah: It wasn’t philosophical.

C-L: No. The machine started. That’s why the way she expresses it is so good. It’s only that. It’s only the machine. Which is good. We need the machine.

Pat: We need that first.

ME: Life support first.

Evangel Oates and Sarah Stohr
Library Residents, University Libraries

Sarah: I have a story about people’s unawareness about the fire still. I was teaching an English class and the instructor from the English department came over to meet with me and he was really adamant that his kids get familiar with our print collection, our print journals. We were in our office and Evangela points through the door to the south wall where the journals that have come in since the fire are and says, “That’s our print journals collection!” And he just had this look on his face like he didn’t know what we were talking about. And I said, “Remember, we had that fire and all of our journals are in Texas.” And he said, “Texas!” He was so surprised that they weren’t here.

Deborah Cole: And this was when?

S: A month ago [early April, 2007]. [Laughter] And then—it gets better—then he asked if we had a shuttle that would shuttle the books from Texas to here when they were needed. They’re still in boxes!

Deborah: They’re not here for a reason.

D: Did he get the fire bit?

S: I think he understood the fire but he thought the journals were just being held neatly on the shelves in some Texas library. He didn’t understand why they couldn’t be here for his class. His class was one where I had the students set up ILL accounts right at the beginning.

D: He didn’t understand why they couldn’t be here for his class.

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Pat B., Office of the Dean
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access

Mary Ellen: We talked about how the library administration got completely subsumed and busy and focused on the fire remediation and that was also a pretext to not deal with internal issues like the re-organization or even to look at other library issues. Fire remediation just came to the forefront and that’s what it seems to me, the library administration has been totally focused on since then, and trying to hire a new dean. We aren’t really looking at public services or technical services. It’s all dealing with the emergency. The things that normally administrators would concentrate on got put on the back burner.

Claire-Lise: When Nancy Dennis says, “Well, the machine started to work again,” that’s it all. It was the only machine. It was not issues. It’s not, “Where should we rank in the ARL?” “Shall we be a full depository library?” All those big issues.

Deborah: It wasn’t philosophical.

C-L: No. The machine started. That’s why the way she expresses it is so good. It’s only that. It’s only the machine. Which is good. We need the machine.

Pat: We need that first.

ME: Life support first.

Evangel Oates and Sarah Stohr
Library Residents, University Libraries

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Kathryn Wood
Interlibrary Loan

Doing reference now, a year later, it’s really interesting. Students will come to the desk who weren’t here when the fire happened and I suddenly find I have to re-explain the fire. They’ll say, “What’s this mean, ‘Unavailable’?” And I’ll say, “Oh, we don’t have this because it was part of the basement collection.” They’ll say, “What’s that?” And I’ll say, “Oh, well, a year ago there was this fire. You know?” And they don’t.
Ellee Cushing-Cruver
Student Employee, CAPS

I just re-did Karen’s filing cabinet this week. She usually goes through it at the end of the spring semester and throws things out, but she didn’t do that last spring. So this year it was two years’ worth, a lot of shredding and recycling.

Ava Kargacin
Circulation, Zimmerman Library

Well, we just came out of a meeting and they were talking about the 17 trucks bringing all those books back. Sounds like they were saying we’d be bringing them back on June 1. And that’s going to be fun because the books aren’t in order because we had no time. We had to just get them out. Dan Barkley and Anne Schultz, while they were moving books, someone was right behind them tearing out walls. So it’ll have time and sat down and said: “Guess what? There’s going to be a fire, so this is the order we’ll put them in.” But it doesn’t work like that. So, yeah, it’s going to be hell. But we’ll do it. I’ve been here since ’75, we always do it. It’s just another big project for us.

Zimmerman Library one year later:
257,000 square-foot interior completely cleaned
1st floor above fire scene redesigned and rebuilt

Cost:
Removal of burnt shelving, carpet and ceiling tile, sending damaged books for cleaning and repair in Texas, storing books and furniture during reconstruction ($5.5 million)
Replacing burned and damaged books and journals ($4.5 million)
Redesign and reconstruction of basement; installing sprinkler system on 1st floor and basement levels, rebuilding fire alarm system, replacing carpet, furniture and shelving ($6.5 million)
Total: nearly $17 million

Basement reconstruction to begin in June, 2007; anticipated reopening for Spring Semester, 2008

Please come and support our Exemplary Employee Award Recipients: Bonifacio Anglada, Ed Padilla, Louie Perez and Anne Schultz and our Bright Idea Award Recipients: Rik Burkard, Louise Danielson, Gail Lane and Mango Shoulderblade. They all took challenging situations and accomplished wonderful things with hard work and innovation.

Ted Firmauture, e-mail, April 19, 2007
The bright blue bell flares,  
Crowns a canister of air.  
Little button dares.  

DEBORAH COLE  
CSWR

Exemplary Employee and Bright Idea Awards recipients  
April 26

100% of construction plans and documents available for contractors to review in preparation for submittals of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for construction

One-year anniversary of the

AIR HORNS AND HARDHATS

University Libraries Fire Watch Patrol:  
Zimmerman Library

Updated Procedures Effective: July 17, 2006

Thank you for your participation in the Zimmerman FireWatch Patrol. FireWatch is required when a building’s fire alarm system is not completely operational in an occupied building.

Apparel: The area you are patrolling may be a bit dirtier than your usual environment; therefore, it is important to wear appropriate apparel and shoes. We strongly encourage you to wear comfortable clothing and closed-toed shoes. Also, your LOBO ID must be worn at all times while in Zimmerman Library.

Check-in: Please arrive for your Fire Watch Patrol 10 minutes prior to the start of your shift. When you arrive, check in with the security guard at the north entrance to Zimmerman Library. After check-in, proceed immediately to your assigned area (if you are covering a shift in the Towers, meet the person you are relieving at the security guard’s desk). The person you are relieving will provide you with an air horn, master key, and map of the area you are assigned to patrol. Keep these items on hand at all times during your Fire Watch Patrol.

Expectations during patrol: You must remain mobile during your entire patrol; you must actively patrol your assigned area at all times during your one- or two-hour shift. You may not use laptops, computers, or any audio device (iPod, Walkman, etc.) at any time during your Fire Watch Patrol; you may not browse reading materials during your shift. You may not eat during your Patrol (though feel free to carry a bottle of water with you).

THE FIRST FIRE WATCH IN CHINESE HISTORY

Five thousand years ago the legendary emperor, Yellow Emperor, appointed the first Fire Watch officer in China.

BING-SHAN FAZIO  
Print Resources

THE FIRST FIRE WATCH OFFICER

the legendary emperor,  
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THE FIRST FIRE WATCH OFFICER

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BING-SHAN FAZIO
Print Resources
Exception – If you are covering a shift in the Towers you may take a short break after completing a full patrol. A full patrol must be completed every 15 minutes (i.e. – if it takes you 12 minutes to complete a full patrol of the towers, you may take a 3 minute break).

IN CASE OF SMOKE AND/OR FIRE: Should you encounter smoke and/or fire while on Fire Watch Patrol do not attempt to extinguish it. Your primary duty is to sound an alarm with your air horn—make 3 short blasts on the horn, pause, then make 3 more short blasts. As you sound the alarm, make a full sweep of your area to ensure that individuals leave immediately. Upon completion of this sweep, exit the building immediately and gather near the north entrance to Zimmerman. Ensure that UNM Campus Police has been notified.

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood

Deborah Cole: How did it feel when you did reference or Fire Watch?

Joe: Often it got in the way, especially when I did three hours of Fire Watch in a day.

Kathryn: Joe really got hit with some awful Fire Watch hours. Of all of us, he somehow got the worst. I don’t know how.

Joe: Yeah, two hours in the Tower and one on the 2nd floor. And they were sometimes separated, a few hours in the morning, an hour during the lunch hour and another hour in the afternoon.

K: And I got my reference training at the card tables in the SUB. It was in the works that I would be getting cross-trained on reference and then the fire happened. You know, those are the things they don’t teach you in library school [laughs]. I sent out a lot of e-mails to people back home entitled “Things they don’t teach you in library school.” They never taught me how to properly wear a hardhat. They never taught me to operate an air horn.

J: I kind of worried about whether, if I pushed that button, it would actually work.

K: I figured I could yell loud enough. [Laughs]

IOU employees who had offices in Zimmerman Library before the fire are expected to participate in the Fire Watch and are required to respond to this e-mail...

CHAD KURZAWSKI, Office of the Dean

May 13, 2006

Another worry was, would I drop it and would it go off by accident?

K: I clanked it on something a couple of times when I wasn’t paying attention going around a corner and swinging an arm wide. But I never set it off. I just thought, “Oh, god!”

Pat B.
Receptionist, Office of the Dean

Deborah Cole: You talked to me earlier about being newly hired and not knowing a lot of library people and that Fire Watch gave you a chance to know more people.

Pat: Yes, I actually met some people I really enjoyed by doing Fire Watch. You came together for just a few minutes and then you were off walking again. So you’d have these snatches of conversation and you’d say, “Let’s get together for lunch so we can have a real conversation.” [Laughs] It even helped me learn people’s names and become more familiar with them.

Evangela Oates
Library Resident, University Libraries

Evangela: I forgot Fire Watch one day. I was sitting at home; it was so peaceful, and I got this phone call. “You’re supposed to be on Fire Watch.” So I thought, “Okay, I’ll be right there.” I just totally forgot. I didn’t like Fire Watch at all. Everyone had to do it.

Some people, when we eventually had to team up, would say, “I’m going to walk this half.” And I would always say, “Listen, I’m not going to walk a half. I’m going to walk and that’s what I’m going to do. I don’t want to think about where I’m going.” Some people would want to switch, but I would say, “No, this is not a big area. I’m just going to walk and look for fire. Or make sure there isn’t a fire.” [Laughs]

I didn’t like the hat. Another reason I didn’t like Fire Watch was that some of the BMS CAT workers would insinuate we liked Fire Watch because we weren’t working. I had to tell a few people that I didn’t get a Master’s to have to walk around and hold an air horn in my hand. So,
it was not fun. I’d rather be working. And as a woman—it was always men commenting—I would think, “Do they think, ‘Well, women and librarianship…?’” Give me a break. They probably thought I had a big chip on my shoulder and I did when they said that, because no one wants to do this and we didn’t feel like we were productive. I had a problem with that. Deborah Cole: There were a lot of physical strains in the early days, no cooling. E: It was hot. They put those big fans out with this big blue glob of goo in front. Basically they were air-fresheners. It was because they were trying to get the smell out. It was like a noisy warehouse—hummmmm.

Some people would wave when they were on Fire Watch. Other people didn’t do anything. They just put their head down and …

D: Different styles.

E: It’s all about style.

Claire-Lise Benaud
Associate Director, Center for Southwest Research

FIRE WATCH GUILT

The only time there was an actual fire alarm during my Fire Watch I neglected to do the one thing Fire Watch is all about: warn others that they have to leave the building. In my rush to get out, I forgot I had seen Beth Silbergleit in Tower Level 3. I did not remember until she came to the lobby and asked why everybody else had been evacuated. This is guilt story No. 1.

My guilt story No. 2 lies somewhere else. And it has nothing to do with not fulfilling the basic duties of a Fire Watcher.

I was doing my Fire Watch rounds on the 1st floor looking for something to read. Reference books had already been packed. In despair, I looked at the books waiting to be shelved in Zimmerman circulation. To my amazement, I found a book that you will never find on your parents’ bookshelves, a book that will never be on any required reading list, a book that you cannot read on a bus, or in a library. I started reading that book hoping that nobody would stop by and ask me what I was reading. More embarrassing! First to be caught reading and even worse, to be caught reading one of the most famous pornographic books of the 20th century.

The Story of O was written the year I was born, in 1954. It is the story of a nameless woman—her name is just the letter O—who is blindfolded, chained, whipped, branded, and made to wear a mask. The prose is graphic, the style elegant and detailed. I cannot give you more details here. The Story of O was banned in France for years. Nobody knew who wrote the book—it was written under a pseudonym. For 40 years, there was much speculation about the author. Men and women alike said that only a man could write such a book. Finally, in 1994, at the age of 87, a woman, Dominique Aury, in an interview with The New Yorker, admitted that she wrote Story of O. This book has never been out of print.

Moises Sanchez
Reserves, Zimmerman Library

I’ve been wanting to get something off my chest regarding Fire Watch. While there was a lot of good interaction with fellow Fire Watchers, what really stuck with me was the cavalier attitude of some people. We were told to take our responsibility seriously—and most of us did—but there were a few who did not. There was one person in particular who had her nose in a book while she was walking the floor for her ENTIRE watch. This is no exaggeration! There was another fellow who would stop to browse the shelves and then start reading whatever caught his fancy. At first I was amused by their behavior, then I found it quite maddening.

Dan, Dan, Fire Watch man,
Tell us where to walk and stand,
Train us if you can.

THREE HAIKUS

I walk the floors, why?
Two hours tower, one third.
Fire Watch done, bye!

I circle the floor.
Around and around I go.
Why is this a bore?

If you smell smoke blow
This horn; don’t panic and run.
Tell all “get out now.”

Moises Sanchez
Reserves, Zimmerman Library
George has a tendency to be rather curious about certain things. One time when he was doing the Tower he just wondered, “Where does this door lead to?” He went through this door at the far side of the Tower on the west side. Then he turned around to get back in and the door had locked when it closed. So he went up to the next level. Well, at every level the door had locked. He was beginning to panic because he couldn’t get out of that stairwell and no one would know he was in there. Finally on the 7th level, the door opened. [Laughter]

“Kathleen Keating
Reference Coordinator, University Libraries
Kathleen, you mentioned something about some of the BMS CAT workers. And I remember the woman was talking about the victims. And they were thankful that they had jobs. Then once the same people were in the disaster. And they had jobs. I thought that was interesting, that disaster victims were actually helping us with our own work. And another thing about Fire Watch. At first you could take a break between your rounds and then later you had to walk continuously the entire time. So what I did then was walk up to the 9th level of the Tower then read an article in one of the old magazines they had up there—like David Cassidy from 1971 with his Partridge Family. I read all about the Kennedy family tragedies. Then I would walk back down. So every time I did a full tour I always read an article in those Life magazines.”

Deborah Cole: You mentioned something about some of the BMS CAT workers. And I remember the woman was talking about the victims. And they were thankful that they had jobs. Then once the same people were in the disaster. And they had jobs. I thought that was interesting, that disaster victims were actually helping us with our own work. And another thing about Fire Watch. At first you could take a break between your rounds and then later you had to walk continuously the entire time. So what I did then was walk up to the 9th level of the Tower then read an article in one of the old magazines they had up there—like David Cassidy from 1971 with his Partridge Family. I read all about the Kennedy family tragedies. Then I would walk back down. So every time I did a full tour I always read an article in those Life magazines.

K: I met a man and a woman cleaning on the 3rd floor of Zimmerman who were Katrina victims. And they were thankful that they had jobs. Then once the same people were in the disaster. And they had jobs. I thought that was interesting, that disaster victims were actually helping us with our own work. And another thing about Fire Watch. At first you could take a break between your rounds and then later you had to walk continuously the entire time. So what I did then was walk up to the 9th level of the Tower then read an article in one of the old magazines they had up there—like David Cassidy from 1971 with his Partridge Family. I read all about the Kennedy family tragedies. Then I would walk back down. So every time I did a full tour I always read an article in those Life magazines.

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Life

So every time I did a full tour I always read magazines they had up and no one would know he was in there. Finally, on the 9th level, the door opened. [Laughter]

George has a tendency to be rather curious about certain things. One time when he was doing the Tower he just wondered, “Where does this door lead to?” He went through this door and the door had locked when it closed. So he went up to the next Tower level. Well, at every level there were signs in and will hand out a map of your zone, plus masks, gloves, instructions. If we are not in compliance with the fire marshal’s procedures we will have to vacate the building completely (including book paging) and no one would know he was in there. Finally, on the 9th level the door opened. [Laughter]

“We don’t know,” said one of the women.

And then they would point at the people who had been reading here. “We thought they were supposed to be cleaning them. They were touching those books back in the Center! Oh, well.”

The other woman said, “Tower cleaning and they just loved looking at the western books. I remember the woman disaster. And they were thankful that they had jobs. Then once the same people were in the library. George is a reference person on the 9th level of the Library and Robert knew he had five kids in the Tower and in that area in the library. His colleagues and the materials were all real big and he got lost. We told him to wait, or you do. But his kids were coming and his wife was coming in the area, so he just decided to wait because his kids were coming. It was pretty much grace and good humor as these two.

The Tower was basically a big, long, narrow stairwell that you had to walk through the building again with the contractor. You need to sign out and leave. I am the reference coordinator. I compile the list of items returning to the area. They would read a bit, put it on the table, come back down and read some more. It was a pretty typical thing. This is a pretty typical thing. And the people were just happy to be back.

Please join DRAT in thanking Monica Dorame and Dan Barkley for their work. We’d like to stress the importance of showing up 10 minutes early for your scheduled Fire Watch. You need to sign out and leave at the North Zimmerman Library Door. I will see that each of you are evaluated since air quality in Zimmerman Library has been restored.

As of RIGHT NOW it appears that the Fire Watch for Tuesday will be evaluated since air quality in Zimmerman Library has been restored. For those who attended today’s training session yesterday or today, I will be in the area. For those unable to attend a fire training session yesterday or today, I will be in the area.

The Disaster Recovery Assistance Team (DRAT) endorsed the current fire watch plan. Under fire watch, including the West Wing. The UNM Fire Department is working with the CSWR/West Wing, 2nd Floor operating, the CSWR/West Wing, 2nd Floor. No one can be in the area you have been assigned. You should not be going into any office or work space during your shift.

Each floor is assessed individually and it is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day. The schedule is based on the specific area and the schedule for the day.

The new schedule for Tuesday has been released. As of RIGHT NOW it appears that the Fire Watch for Tuesday will be evaluated since air quality in Zimmerman Library has been restored.

Please send to Dan Barkley an e-mail with a list of the blocks of time you would like to have as Fire Watch slot so we always have someone in place. We would like to ask ALL UL employees to send their availability for next week (May 22-26) to Monica Dorame by Noon, Friday May 19 to have any questions about the scheduling you can contact Rita Sandoval, Dan Barkley, and Severi Kujanen.

Please clear all shift swapping with Monica before you report for duty since your name will need to be given to the security guard. Please stay visible to the security guard. Please stay visible to the security guard.

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I wait, or you do.

DEBORAH COLE

CSWR
Nancy Pistorius
Reference, Zimmerman Library
FIRE WATCH ON ZIMMERMAN THREE
Hope that I never again may be, Assigned Fire Watch, on Zimmerman floor three.
Up this aisle, and down that.
I found where children’s books abound!
I’m caught! I’m hooked! I found! Or was it on cue, did appear Harry Potter, the Hardy Boys, and Nancy Drew, too!
Best of all, I sheepishly admit, Are the PZ’s, or “easy books”, Which have really great pics!
Last is seen, duty I’ve avoided, Mr. Dan and the Fire Chief Never caught me readin’ or dozin’.
And when my replacement did finally arrive, I left floor three, feeling muchly alive,
Assured that Zimmerman floor three Was safe, safe as can be, As well as very, very, fire free.

Pat B.
Receptionist, Office of the Dean
Pat: I did enjoy walking the Tower. I learned to walk up one flight and do a round of a floor then walk up another flight and do another round of a floor because it was too hard to walk all those stairs at once. But I get in better shape! [Laughs]
Deborah Cole: Lots of people took advantage of that.
P: The books in the Tower are fascinating even from the covers. I’ve always loved books and been around them all my life; my grandparents and parents had a large collection of books. So books also have always been like family treasures. So, I’m looking at the fabulous book covers and the artist/sculptor in me wants to find out how this one was bound and, “Isn’t this embossing neat,” and, “No, I must go on. Where’s the smoke? Where’s the fire?”
A battery went dead in one of the smoke detectors on a floor in the Tower once. It gave a little “beep” like home smoke alarms will. That was kind of strange. I thought, “Is this a time to blow the air horn? No, I don’t think so. I’m going to tell Dan.” [Laughs]
I learned a lot more about the way Zimmerman is laid out. It felt like there was a lot of history there, not just the history recorded in books, but the history of the number of students who used to browse in the Tower and the old study desks up there. You could imagine people sitting in these dark spaces researching. That kind of history became evident. I also love the smell of books. When you get in the stacks, they smell like books. It was nice.

Russ Cole
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library
Whenever I was on the 2nd or 3rd floor, going around and around, I’d look out those windows on the northeast corner and watch them hauling stuff up out of the skylights. That just went on and on; they kept taking out more and more charred gibberish-gook. Then suddenly I’d recognize a shelf end, something you could identify. That was part of the feeling of the enormity of the damage, how huge it was. I kept thinking, “When are they going to stop?”

“Here is one of my Fire Watch Eurekas (I heard this thought in an American Masters video):
‘If something is boring after two minutes, try it for four. If still boring, then eight. Then thirty-two. Eventually one discovers that it is not boring at all.’ John Cage”

Michele Mals
Reference/Instruction
Here is one of my Fire Watch Eurekas (I heard this thought in an American Masters video):
‘If something is boring after two minutes, try it for four. If still boring, then eight. Then thirty-two. Eventually one discovers that it is not boring at all.’ John Cage”

Michele Mals
Reference/Instruction
AIR HORNS
June 19
Interim Dean Wilkinson announces that print journals in JSTOR or Project Muse will not return to Zimmerman but will be stored offsite June 22
Installation of anchors in concrete ceiling slab for new fire suppression system June 30
Deadline for reporting value of loss to UL administration July 5
Kaelyn
Lee Byrne
Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS
Lee: CAPS staff walked Fire Watch for one week. I think we were back two weeks before the security company took over Fire Watch. The first week we were back, Dan came up and trained us. Then we gave our schedules to Linda Skye and she put us on the schedule. I had three or four times.

Deborah Cole: As I recall, there were some CAPS staff who were disappointed to be given the 3rd floor to walk.

L: Oh, they put us up here! I wanted the Tower so bad! “Let me do something fun.” Yeah, walking the 3rd floor when you know it as well as … well, I don’t know about everybody up here, but me, I can find the books out there. I know where they are. But it was interesting. I’d think, “What pattern will I walk today?” Then I’d change it. It’s just an hour; it’ll be fine. But then I’d look at the clock and think, “What do you mean, I’ve only been walking for fifteen minutes!” [Laughs] The first fifteen minutes was always the hardest. “Okay, I’ve covered the floor twice.” Maybe, maybe only once, but whatever it was it was enough. “You mean I’ve got to do this for another 45 minutes? Oh, please, next person, please be here.”

D: Yeah, toward the end of everyone’s shifts on these floors they’d come toward the lobby area looking hopefully for the next person. “Are you the one? Glad to see you. NO?” or “OH! Just a patron.” or “A patron! Something to watch! Now I have some purpose beyond the fire that might happen.” [Laughter]

L: And that burning desire …

D: Burning! [Laughter]

L: [Looks down at her hand, fingers curved, thumb raised and cocked] “I wonder what this sounds … NO! … I wonder what this sounds …” [laughter]

Richardson holds first meeting of the fire quilt group
July 9
CSWR Preservation Studio moves to Room 113
July 16
Interim Dean Fran Wilkinson announces that Improve Group will install compact shelving in the three basement levels built in 1992 and in the part of the main basement level where periodicals are shelved
∆
Temporary shut down of south side restrooms on Zimmerman

Strategic Fire Watch
Where there is smoke there’s surely a fire and only a liar will say that smoke-screens won’t choke UL hocking to wire-less plans (how dire!)

YA’AQOV ZISO
Authority Control

UNM Today, August 9, 2007

Strategic Fire Watch
Where there is smoke there’s surely a fire and only a liar will say that smoke screens won’t choke UL hocking to wire-less plans (how dire!)

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Sharon Head
In regards to Fire Watch, I’d like to say something profound and enlightening. I did have some really lovely moments in the Tower. I love the physical facts of books … the colors of covers, the smells, the weight, the print on the page. I loved being in that space or on the 2nd or 3rd floors of Zimmerman. However, more memorable for me is the fact that several times, when I told someone out in the community I was doing Fire Watch and had to explain what that was and that I walked through the old “tower,” the response was something like, “Oh, I used to make-out up there in the stacks,” or on one occasion, “I had sex with my boyfriend up there.” After that, I would wonder what other energies and ghosts were dancing about as I was making my rounds.

AIR HORNS

AIR HORNS

AIR HORNS

AIR HORNS
Firewalking the floors of the library tower,
Discoveries beckon on shelves,
Sparking secrets only to me,
Of connections and histories
Engagements and musings.

Like good genies who
Float back around with every circle
Of travel and revelation,
Awakenings await with each revolution.

Firewalking the floors of the library tower,
Tripping upon treasure books
Of national park adventure parading from
Pages of invitation to wilderness outposts
On ancient sunbaked Hopi lands and glacial alpine lakes
Trekking in sacred circles, descending altitudes on
Paths infused with imagination,
An antidote to stairmastering the solitary hours.

Firewalking the floors of the library tower,
Where dissertations and theses mushroom each passing year,
Merchandizing intellectual properties
Of scholars recent and past.
Volumes speaking of hours,
Hunched over primary sources and data leading to
Probabilistic uncertainty analysis of laser thermal interactions
And six-inch bound forays into Clinton P. Anderson's public policy,
Squatting next to soaring musical scores celebrating
The way of trees: for three oboes, three trombones, timpano,
bass drum, and piano.

These lined up with Edward Abbey's celebrity dissertation
Emitting without fanfare the philosophy of
Anarchism and the morality of violence.

For those of you who participate in
Fire Watch, a quick procedural item. For now, we do not need to open
student study carrels on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Ed does a thorough
check of these carrels every morning, and we are only required
to do one such check a day. If you do feel the need to open a student
study carrel (i.e. you suspect smoke/fire), please make sure that you lock
the carrel securely after checking it.

CHAD KURZAWSKI
Office of the Dean
e-mail June 22, 2006

There are no “Towers.”
Just the one, nine levels tall.
Stagger, climb or crawl.

DEBORAH COLE
COBA
Wendy Pedersen
Research Materials Bibliographic Access

NINE CIRCLES OF MYSTERY; NINE LEVELS OF HISTORY (Working title)

Proposed video production project treatment of about 10 minutes; pitched on 9/26/2006; rejected by Fire Marshal on 10/9/2006

This preliminary treatment was submitted as a proposal for a class on video production. University Libraries employees had a lot of time to think as we traversed the stacks of Zimmerman, and the Tower lends itself to some fun flights of fancy.

The basic story highlights the potential of our unique materials to become living history. While the tone is intended to be light-yet-respectful and a bit fantastical, the possibilities for benign, positive attention to the collection are solid. As for security, through the magic of video all exact locations can be cheerfully misrepresented.

The action takes place in the closed access stacks in Zimmerman Library’s tower. After the fire, the alarm system is out. The Fire Marshal has decreed that staff must mount human Fire Watch patrols while anyone is working in the building.

Our protagonist is a librarian assigned to patrol the nine stories of the Tower. She’s issued an air horn and a master key. The elevator is out, so she accesses each floor through the stairwell. Lighting is dim and windows are covered with shades for preservation purposes; only in the stairwell is there full light. Our librarian may turn on lights only if she turns them off again.

On each floor she stops to look at something in the collection, because these are rare books and materials not generally available for everyday perusal. On each floor, some object she picks up speaks to her, or makes noise, or an apparition manifests. For example:

9th floor: Che Guevara (or August Sandino or Salvador Allende, whatever) steps out from behind a cabinet of Latin American political posters.

8th floor: She picks up a reel-to-reel tape from the ethno-musicological collection of John Donald Robb and we hear some weird music from the collection.

7th floor: She opens a Mexican cookbook and along comes the spirit of Josefina Velázquez de León, author of hundreds of popular cooking rags and hostess of Mexico’s first ever televised cooking show in the 50s.

6th floor: Decades of UNM theses & dissertations. The voices of Ph.D.s babble together the titles of their works, and it all ends with something like, “Do you want fries with that?”

5th floor: Picks up an autobiography of Richard Nixon. It is autographed, “To my good friend and neighbor, Clinton P. Anderson.” We cut in some Nixon footage; librarian slams the book shut, shudders and moves on!

4th floor: Empty except for a table with one large, ancient tome. Some peeks through the shades on the 9th floor show sunny ABQ vistas, while all is dark and strange inside.

Ending: Librarian puts out the last light, voiceover says, “There are 40 thousand stories in the Naked Tower; these are nine of them.” Or something like that….
WANDERING … IN THE FORBIDDEN TOWERS

I found it peculiar that a fire that violates our core sense of what is right was a catalyst to wander the towers. Wander with a mission—the mission of Fire Watch to serve and protect—but wander in routes that took me to each corridor where I had previously been forbidden to enter even as a long-term employee. It seemed a shame I couldn’t sit and browse the collections. It reminded me of a time long ago where on a rainy day I'd sit for hours thoroughly immersed, digging through treasures and discovering hidden secrets in my grandmother’s attic. But the rules were clear; four sweeps per hour, and as I was I barely completed the nine levels in my allotted 15 minutes in time to start the process afresh.

Yes, my brain understood the reasons for closed stacks—for collection preservation on materials declared as special, to be more environmentally controlled, and for a host of other reasons. Is it that we long for that which we cannot have? To be able to browse only via online materials declared as special, to be more environmentally controlled, and for a host of other reasons.

Yes, my brain understood the reasons for closed stacks—to protect—but wander in routes that took me to each corridor where I had previously been forbidden to enter, even as a long-term employee. It seemed a shame I couldn’t sit and browse the collections. It reminded me of a time long ago where on a rainy day I’d sit for hours thoroughly immersed, digging through treasures and discovering hidden secrets in my grandmother’s attic. But the rules were clear; four sweeps per hour, and as I was I barely completed the nine levels in my allotted 15 minutes in time to start the process afresh.

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The Fire Watch Follies

On September 7, 2006, a month to the day after a security firm assumed Fire Watch responsibilities in Zimmerman Library, over 100 staff from University Libraries, Zimmerman affiliates and other UNM departments celebrated the transition at The Fire Watch Follies. Attendees hoping to win a donated POD Shuffie signed in with John Gill (playing a guard on his day off from real guard duty) and received a flyer about the FireWatch Book Project.

The “Fire Watch Well of Fame” graced the glass expense of the Willard Room’s east wall, displaying 12 weeks of Fire Watch schedules. At fire “Fire Stations” visitors could list their Fire Watch Memories books displayed poems and stories created by UL staff. Photographs of the fire damage, clean-up, deconstruction and reconstruction as well as relocated services and staff flashed overhead. A sound-track of “fire-theme” songs played in the background.

A “Fire Watch” made by Pat B. ticked away on the refreshments table not far from a hardhat “crown” donned by many participants during the festivities. A “Fire Watch” made by Pat B. ticked away on the refreshments table not far from a hardhat “crown” donned by many participants during the festivities. A “Fire Watch” made by Pat B. ticked away on the refreshments table not far from a hardhat “crown” donned by many participants during the festivities.

The Follies began when the Firewatch Task Force, who organized the event, assembled to the theme from Chariots of Fire. Rallie Braun, Debora Cole, Michele Male and Wendy Pedersen welcomed everyone by breaking into a song inspired by The Wizard of Oz:

And in behalf of the fire-watch gang, We wish to welcome you to Fire- Watch Land! MC Deborah Cole pointed out that the Follies were not intended to belittle the gravity of the April 30th fire, but evolved from an understanding of fire as both destructive and transformative. She assured everyone that the humor to follow came straight from the heart.

A medal ceremony began the Follies. “Calm Under Fire” honored student Verity Robert for doing what no person performing Zimmerman Fire Watch has yet done: on April 30 she calmly cleared the basement of patrons after seeing smoke that indicated a very real fire.

For continuing to work Sunday nights once Zimmerman returned to its regular hours, Russ Cox received the “Never on Sunday” medal. Russ was the UL staff person on duty Sunday evening when the fire began.

For performing like the Jemez Pueblo firefighters who travel far afield, Anne Schulz donned the “Hot Shot” medal for her various post-fire efforts in Zimmerman—a library in which she doesn’t normally work!

Other “hot shots” receiving fiery candies for their post-fire efforts included Ed Cataldo-Padilla (for everything), Louis Perez and Bonifacio Anglada (for moving furniture back and forth and back again), Sever Bordeianu and Kathy Gienger (for sifting through the periodicals in the basement), Monica Dorame, Chad Kurzawski and Linda Skye (for scheduling—a job much more difficult than the official job title suggests).

Planning is underway for two major UL projects, the Zimmerman Pack Back and the Fine Arts Library move. Both projects will be taking place simultaneously generating a need for volunteers from across the UL. The Zimmerman Pack Back is scheduled to get underway in mid-September and the FAL move will take place over the winter break. What we ask at this point is that you do your best to volunteer to work on the Zimmerman Reference desk or, as Crew Supervisors for the pack back.

We will need volunteers to begin the week of September 17th through January 21st (the scheduled reopening date for the basement). NRG Services, a professional moving company has been hired to perform all of the manual labor involved in the book return.

Johannes Von Raesens, e-mail, August 30, 2007

The Zimmerman Fire Memorial Gift Fund is proposed by Donald Burge, Nancy Dennis, e-mail, August 16, 2007

CSWR Preservation Studio moves from Room 113 to Tower Level 6

August 16

DAN BARKLEY

TOP TEN REASONS WHY I CAN’T DO FIRE WATCH TODAY

1. I can’t come in today because I am allergic to fire.

2. My supervisor said I don’t have to do Fire Watch

3. My dog ate my Fire Watch schedule so I didn’t

4. My Fire Watch shoes are in the wash.

5. My dog had puppies last night, so I’m staying

6. I broke a nail so I can’t press down on the air

7. Why do I have to do Fire Watch when you don’t?

8. My dog had puppies last night, so I’m staying

9. My supervisor said I don’t have to do Fire Watch

10. My Fire Watch shoes are in the wash.

Assistant Dean Johannes Van Reenen calls for volunteers for Zimmerman Pack Back and FAL move. Both projects will be taking place simultaneously generating a need for volunteers from across the UL. The Zimmerman Pack Back is scheduled to get underway in mid-September and the FAL move will take place over the winter break. What we ask at this point is that you do your best to volunteer to work on the Zimmerman Reference desk or, as Crew Supervisors for the pack back.

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Johannes Von Raesens, e-mail, August 30, 2007

August 30 Assistant Dean Johannes Von Raesens calls for volunteers for Zimmerman Pack Back and FAL move.

September 5 Great-Western-Bank, Inc. begins installation of new

Nancy Dennis, e-mail, August 16, 2007

August 16 CSWR Preservation Studio moves from Room 113 to Tower Level 6

August 20 UNM Fall 2007 classes
worse than Fire Watch itself), and the Library Information Technology staff: where would we be without our computers?

The final medal, “Hot and Bothered,” expressed appreciation for another job few in UL would have wished to do: coordinating and overseeing Fire Watch. Before receiving his medal, honoree Dan Barkley endured a bit of “roasting.” Firewitches Deborah and Wendy read a “Dan” haiku and limerick. John Gill, Claire-Lise Benaud and Evangela Oates performed a Fire Watch sign-out/sign-in skit that included a discussion of footwear choices for Fire Watch (high-heeled boots vs. sensible shoes) and Evangelis’s heartfelt rendition of “These Boots Are Made for Walking.” Her boots walked right over a photo of Dan. Zimmerman’s own Alice accepted the attention good-naturedly then read out “The Ten Reasons Why I Can’t Do Fire Watch Today,” taken from real excuses, so he claimed.

After gaily singing songs written for the event, people shared fire and Fire Watch experiences. Claire-Lise Benaud spoke of “Fire Watch Guilt,” Teresa Marquez of ghosts in the tower and Twila Firmature of keys returned, keys reclaimed and doors no longer there. Anne Schultz related how difficult and disturbing it had been working among the burned ranges. An e-mail from Sharon Head noted peoples’ recollections of youthful escapades in the tower.

Deborah Cole presented examples of photographic work by herself and Ed Castillo-Padilla.

After the formal Follies concluded, the audience returned to visiting the Fire Stations, playing with air horns, enjoying cake, watching the slideshow and tapping their feet to Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen, James Taylor, Buddy Holly, the Pointer Sisters and others singing of fire in its various forms.

Reports during and after the Follies indicated that a good time was had by all. Certainly the Willard Room will never be the same.

Grace Williams
Security Guard, Santa Fe Protective Services, Inc., Zimmerman Library

Ernest: I didn’t know about the fire until I started working here. I think it was July of last year. That’s when I found out about the fire and how devastating it was for a lot of people. It was after the fact.

Deborah Cole: What was it like walking through the building?

E: It was kind of scary. Up in the Tower you can still smell smoke. But it’s also so funny because people see us walking around with those horns and they’ll stop us and ask, “What is that horn for?” And I say, “Well, if anyone gets out of hand we’ll just hit them over the head with it.” [Laughter] Then I just start laughing.

Deborah Cole: A lot of people don’t realize there are no alarms or that there was a fire.

Ernest: We have to explain what’s going on and why we’re here. I like doing it.

Ed Castillo-Padilla, e-mail, September 5, 2007

Ed Castillo-Padilla was working from the company installing the alarm system, Great Western Electrical, Inc., when he was checking every room, office and open space in the building to verify alarm locations, and installation configurations.

John Delacour processes invoices of $13,216, $7600, $4681, and $2652 from Fernando Garcia Cambeiro, Latin American materials vendor.
Watch, because it’s interesting walking around, meeting new people and having them ask, “What happened?”

D: Did you ever go to the basement?

E: We used to work in the basement and we would take turns. I was in the basement a couple of times. It’s real quiet down there. You can see where the fire was on the ceiling in places, on some of the darker edges of the skylights, where the stucco is. I saw the pictures they displayed in front of the plastic on the 1st floor for a while, showing what happened and how much damage was done. It took me back to my childhood, to my teenage years when we had a fire at home. An electrical fire burned the whole 2nd floor of our house.

D: Were you at home at the time?

E: Yeah. It was a Saturday and I was babysitting my two little sisters. One of my sisters went upstairs while I was watching TV and came back yelling, “There’s a FIRE!” And I said, “No, no way,” but I ran up to see and then ran back down. I was washing clothes at the time and I couldn’t get water out of the faucet, so I grabbed a gallon of milk to try to put out the fire. [Laughs] One of my sisters was so scared that she ran in the closet, so I had to put everything down and get her and my other sister and run outside. My neighbor got a water hose to try to put it out, but the fire spread so quickly that there wasn’t time to do anything. We lost everything. You felt like you didn’t have anywhere else to go.

D: So you had the experience of the fire and of being displaced by it.

E: Yeah, we stayed with my aunt who also lived in Houston. About two months later we moved to San Antonio. I’m from San Antonio originally. We moved to Houston then moved back. It was a sad situation.

D: So I guess you can empathize with the people in the library who aren’t back, or will never be back, in their regular offices because those offices are gone.

E: Yeah….

John Gill, security guard: “It’s the old guy’s birthday today. He’s 70.”

UL staff signing in: “What’s his name?”

John Gill: “Just think Old Man River. It’s Larry Stream. He prefers the basement shift so we call him ‘Underground Stream.’”

These 8 trucks represent a little more than 50% of what we sent to Texas.

Teresa Neely, e-mail, September 20, 2007

Linda Lewis, e-mail, September 24, 2007

The semi-trucks have started arriving from Texas to bring our journals home. We’re scheduling about 3 or 4 trucks per week right now. They go to a warehouse that we’ve leased.

Teresa Neely, e-mail, September 20, 2007

Linda Lewis, e-mail, September 24, 2007
“Our current estimates are that we lost some or all of about 1,400 journal titles, and at least 25,000 volumes. We know those numbers will go up.”

LINDA K. LEWIS
Collection Development Coordinator
E-mail, July 7, 2006

In response to one of the questions put to her, a candidate for the University Libraries Dean’s position mentioned an event held in the basement of a library she had managed. One person in the audience quickly quipped, “We don’t have a basement.” Another countered, “We have a basement; it’s just empty.” Several minutes later, Susan Magee chimed in to pin the fact in place, “We have a basement. It’s just in Parish.”
We are still working on determining the exact losses from the fire. As you know, it was in the north east part of the Zimmerman basement. What we know at this point is that the major complete loss is between the DS 700 area and the G 160 area. For those not familiar with those call numbers, that is history and geography. In addition to general United States history, some of the specific areas include our Native American and Hispanic history areas, as well as New Mexico history and Latin American history. For some of the New Mexico titles, we do have copies in CS069 or in ZM reference. In addition to those losses, there are other lost materials in the near by sections. We are working carefully to identify what has been lost, what may be salvaged, and what only needs cleaning.

In addition to these losses, there are other lost materials in the Near East section. We are still working on determining the exact losses from the fire. To all selectors:

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Deborah Cole: There'd been a fire in the basement and that's where the periodicals were and that's about all we knew. Then we filled in that void with knowledge and it was still a void or loss, but we knew what we were talking about.
I miss the poet and philosopher. Most every day
with enthusiasm contagious and energy unbridled,
with an easy smile and twinkling eyes and shuffling walk,
With his poetry and others, and his philosophy and others,
Parish Library
Second phase of Zimmerman Library compact shelving starts: American Library Consultants (ALC) and Improve Group begin working in basement levels 1, 2, 3, and 4.

JOE'S SONG

Deborah Cole: Heidi did a piece about a patron who never returned after the fire. He was a homeless person, I think.

Evangelia Oates: Oh, my god. Is it the short guy that always asked for Heidi? He was so nice. I haven't seen him. He would talk and would ask, "Is Heidi here?" And I'd say, "No, I think she's coming on at this time." You didn't mind his coming and talking for a while because he was so nice. And we would tease Heidi that he was her boyfriend, because he just loved Heidi.

Page 110

October 17

A building, especially a beautiful one such as Zimmerman, is important but essentially loses its personality when the people who make their living and learning there are absent.
“I found that the first time I was in the basement I had to orient myself by where the bathrooms were. They were the only identifiable spaces left.”

DEBORAH COLE

CLEAN CARPET, light walls, rows of computers and rooms for small group study are some of the things students won’t recognize about the basement of Zimmerman Library. The reconstruction, after a serious fire in spring of 2006, will make the basement an exciting place to visit.

October 18

Arrival of 10th truck from TX

A Absolute Company obtains approximately 90 periodical replacements

October 19

Arrival of 11th truck from TX

A DLC relocates Deweys from B2 to Tower B10

—Central Asian journal —Central States archaeological journal —Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in Central America —Chica / Servando Teresa de” —Casa de las Americas —Casino entertainer & jackpot politics —Central America review

WPI / from the Central America newspak —Central Asian review

Chile);"Cauce" —Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in Central America —Central American review

I found that the first time I was in the basement I had to orient myself by where the bathrooms were. They were the only identifiable spaces left.”

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WPI / from the Central America newspak —Central Asian review

Chile);"Cauce" —Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in Central America —Central American review

I found that the first time I was in the basement I had to orient myself by where the bathrooms were. They were the only identifiable spaces left.”

DEBORAH COLE

October 18

Arrival of 10th truck from TX

A Absolute Company obtains approximately 90 periodical replacements

October 19

Arrival of 11th truck from TX

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Here, at the bottom of the main stairwell, the walls have been stripped down to concrete. The terrazzo tiles in the foyer at the bottom of the stair's remain. Fluorescent lights hang in clumps outside the walls to be replaced with cool, black, and creamy-colored lights. Inside, the floor has been scraped away leaving a pattern that looks as if someone had drawn a grid in the cement floor. Nine fluorescent lights fixture dangle from the ceiling.

Walking toward the east end of the building on my left it’s very dark where the Interlibrary Loan, Print Resources and Library Information Technology offices were. To my right, looking south I can see the carrels that line the wall here. The wall is covered with a pattern of tall rectangles separated by gray vertical lines; rather beautiful. There are nine and a half feet high. That few fluorescent fixtures hang from the ceiling. As I walk toward that area I can hear the wind passing through the skylights. I see the ceiling that emits a sucking and hollow sound. There is a crack there but absolutely no indication of a vent, just bits of electric conduit hanging down.

Near the women’s bathroom and the exit leading to the south stairwell, there’s a large circular vent area. Pieces of metal and strapping sway and rattle with the wind. The exterior of the bathroom has been stripped away leaving only metal studs and plaster pressed through metal lath. The water fountain remains. In the hallway outside the bathroom it’s considerably quieter. The tile has been popped up, exposing another grid of broken and scraped cement.

In the back area, main exit signs hang askew in an eerie way. To the west, the ceiling is raw cement and the pillars are exposed cement and plaster. Everything to the east, (including the pillars I face), is sealed with white paint or a paint-like substance. This is clearly the area most affected by the fire, the area that had to be sealed in order to keep the smell out, although you can still smell smoke, without a doubt.

There’s a new electrical box in the middle of the south wall on this side; nothing coming out, although you can still smell smoke, without a doubt. The scene.

Now, I’m looking down at where once stood a corner of a strangely-angled room of some sort. On the floor there’s a small pool left when they sealed the walls white. It’s of a mental shell of a wall. The outlines frames and corners were mastic had been spread for the flooring. In places, the pattern resembles rows of grain hairpin turns holding new growth.

Lengths of blue tape hang where plastic had been stretched over an emergency exit doorway during the deconstruction. Down at this far end, the southeast end, a large Maloy plastic cart catches liquid dripping from a pipe protruding from the ceiling. You can hear the drops. Maybe it’s water from the rains. The skylight is not far away. The emergency lighting down here is a strand of light bulbs protected by yellow oval cages. One cage, with its cage door open, lights the scene.

The skylight is boarded over but there seems to be a leak coming from it, too. A trash can catches these drops. On the north side of the skylight’s frame, the stucco is blackened and the other side seems almost untouched. For some reason they did not seal this stucco. The outsides have been sealed, but not the bottom or inner edges.

Continuing north toward the big ventilation fans, there’s a small three-shelfed wooden book truck numbered UNM 89. Attached to it is a photocopier illustration from a children’s book showing kids parading. It’s being used by Maloy to carry boxes of bolts and fasteners. It serves a purpose here, as do a number of library things, like a mail cart full of construction paraphernalia. In this area, cluttered with Maloy tables and toolboxes, a large wooden structure acts as a temporary electrical box from which the strings of lights spread out over the site.

I’m approaching the second skylight area now. This is where they had everything in and out. The four rectangular openings are boarded over. The stucco shows some smoke damage, but it’s evenly distributed and not as dramatically burned as the other skylight. Maybe the fire moved in that direction.

Behind the fans and mail cart, I see another wooden book truck belonging to the Circulation Department. On it sits a hardback, a little pile of waterlogged, unsmoked cigarettes, a few bottles of water and a “Boston” baseball cap. Opening a nearby door I face the huge ventilation system and its deforming clamor. I’m not going inside because the door won’t stop open.
Walking west towards the Print Resources/Gifts
Acquisitions area is really disorienting. I have to use an exit or a bathroom as a reference point. Bathrooms are pretty much the indications of where one is down here unless you happen to have a great memory of the relationship of certain offices to specific pillars. Now I’m entering the area where I guess the Gifts Department was—hard to tell. I can see the small bathroom they had and then there’s the men’s room and the north stairwell that leads up into what used to be the Catalog Services Department.

Where Serials and the Bindery were, carrels have been removed from the north wall. In the floor, you can see where the stubs were attached to the cement. There’s not much light here; there are a few little spot-lit areas where they’ve strung up some fluorescent lights, but in the northwest corner there’s no light. It’s very dark where Bindery was. You almost feel like there should be a play going on with someone sitting in a chair or dancing in that corner from ILL. I can see where doors and wall angles were. Everything has been scraped and sheetrock—another isolated peninsula, I guess you would call it. The elevator door is much like it was. There is a small fire extinguisher still around the elevator, some sort of brick wall with plaster and sheetrock—another isolated peninsula, I guess you would call it. The elevator door is much like it was. 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“Physical Plant administrators say a seventy-five hundred square foot area of the upper basement level on the eastern side of the building was completely destroyed.”

UNM Today, May 8, 2006

APRIL, 2007:

33% of the University Libraries employees will remain displaced until January, 2008.

46 people
Deborah: There was the “void” of not really knowing what we were talking about: there’d been a fire in the basement and that’s where the periodicals were and that’s about all we knew. Eventually we filled that void with knowledge and it was still a void or loss, but we knew what we were talking about. And then there was this “Simmons as a building” awareness we discovered in the interviews. In a way, the building had been a kind of void for us before the fire. It was here; we worked in it, but …

Claire-Lise: We didn’t think of it; we didn’t think of the building.

D: We needed it. It’s where our services collections were housed. Then was there void of not being able to get into it, of not having access to it, of …

Mary Ellen: What it means to you.

CL: A reversal. Because librarianship was what mattered, we didn’t really care about the building. After the fire, librarianship disappeared in some ways, like projects and whatever was going on, and then the building came up. Because when I read the interviews and contributions, what struck me was that people were so busy doing this and doing that because, in a way, psychologically it was easier. You wouldn’t get depressed. You know, try to set up reference, try to set up Interlibrary Loan. I think this kind of frenzy was in a way: let’s get busy, let’s get busy and not think about the burned periodicals.

Heidi: It was a way to cope.

D: And then you get someone like Kathleen who was given nothing to get busy about.

CL: And then you get depressed.

But sooner or later people had contact with the building, either because they had to come back in to do some work or they wanted to come back in and peak.

ME: Or they were given 15 minutes to get in, get their stuff and go.

D: And then we started having our reactions to the place, the space, the building, which is not something we would normally react to. Sure, we generally like the spaces in which we work but until they’re actually taken away from us or we’re forced to go somewhere else, we don’t really define them or engage with them. So that push-pull of “no access” or “no place” makes you entirely aware of place and what you’re missing.

ME: Very early on, I sat at one of the information tables and it was frustrating because you are there in library mode with the table and canopy and it looked official and people had just heard the news and they came rushing up asking, “What happened?” And you had to say, “We don’t know.” Just like Evangela said.

CL: So it was a “non-information table.”

ME: But there were people who ran up and said, “Can I return my books?” And we had an answer for that. Or: “Can I get into the books?” “We have an answer for that; you won’t like it.” But people would want to know what happened, what was going to happen next. They were just the kinds of things we could not answer, because we did not know.

H: And at even the SUB, you could console people because they knew the fire had happened and they knew there wasn’t going to be a lot of information about it, but they really wanted to express their grief and they wanted to apologize to you and they wanted to just share in the experience and that’s the way they did it. They came and chatted at the reference desks about something that we all knew nothing about.

ME: That’s true, even the brief few days I was at one of those outdoor information tables some people would just come up and say, “Well, that’s terrible; that’s awful; I love the library.”

D: And again it’s that thing about “the library.” Sure people were freaking out about exams but again even they reacted to the building, the place, the things in it. They weren’t missing the online databases.

DISAPPEARED
2:30pm. A pipe connector on a ten-inch pipe in the new fire suppression system fails, spewing thousands of gallons of water into the newly remodeled basement of Zimmerman Library. Zimmerman evacuated and power turned off. Rockefeller’s Cleaning Co. crews work.

Fran Wilkinson
Interim Dean
APRIL 30, 2006, THOUGHTS

Print Resources
EVOLUTION OF THE CHINESE CHARACTER FOR “FIRE”
late into the night on cleanup November 1:00pm Zimmerman reopens with limited services

- Removal of wet carpet from basement
- Holes punched in basement drywall to facilitate drying
- Infrared inspection shows no water seeped into fabric of newly installed staff cubicles
- ALC resumes relocating B1 Gov Docs call numbers through HE 20.6210/A:994/v.2/pt a./

Nina Stephenson
Reference, Fine Arts Library, University Libraries

COURTROOM BLUES (sequestered, no news)

I learned about the fire in an unusual way. I was serving on a jury at the end of April in 2006. The judge had warned us to avoid the media in case our felony case was discussed. During the weekend of the fire, I did my best to avoid hearing or reading the local news and so didn't hear about the fire right away. I was also a bit preoccupied that weekend because I had my 50th birthday the day before the fire.

When I returned to jury duty on Monday, some jury members, knowing I was a librarian at UNM, asked for details about the fire. There I was, wondering which library had burned, how much damage had been done, and whether or not anyone had been injured. Since by then we were in deliberation and therefore sequestered, I didn't have access to any newspapers, the television, or even a cell phone. It was a challenge to stay focused on the trial.

I think I'll always remember this peculiar confluence of events: the Zimmerman fire, my 50th birthday, and being sequestered in Albuquerque's federal courthouse.

Russ Cole
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

My son Neil seemed to react to the fire pretty well initially. It wasn't until some months later that he took out this big bright red piece of construction paper and drew a very nice picture of Zimmerman ... then handed it to me saying, “Here’s a picture of Zimmerman burning.” Since then he hasn’t really seemed to focus on it. We were able to come in over the semester break when we checked the book drop and watched them carpet the circulation area, with all our stuff piled outside. Then, one of the first times he was with me after that for a long enough time, he sat down and drew a detailed picture of my new desk area. I don't know if that was him processing it or not. Oh, and he and I keep our bikes in the bike room, so we couldn't bike ride for months until they finally let us get them. That was right before the asbestos abatement between the mailroom and circulation.

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Nearly one year later...acknowledge our struggles. Honor our spirit. Celebrate our triumphs. And remember.

April 13, 2007 3:16 a.m.

April 13, 2007 3:16 a.m.

REFLECTING
I rarely check my e-mail at home—just one of the ways to keep the work and home versions of me distinct. But for some reason, I did check it before coming in to work on May 1. I remember feeling a sense of total disbelief as I read that the basement of Zimmerman had suffered a fire the previous night; I also had an eerie sense of déjà vu from the memories of Cemen hall’s flood in 2004.

When I rode my bike to work that day, past the yellow crime-scene tape that surrounded the north parking lot, the smell of smoke was powerful. The sense of disbelief began to slide into something more like shock. I have been working at UNM since the fall of 1991; since I was a young pup fresh out of my undergraduate days in Indiana. All of my library jobs to this point have involved to some degree the care and feeding of print serials—a dying art, I guess. I thought about how I would feel if I were my science journals that had gone up in smoke. Zimmerman may not be my “home” library, but nonetheless I have spent plenty of time in the stacks on all floors for my own coursework—and of course to borrow a lot of books. I have also spent a great deal of time in the basement, working with all of the technical services people whose offices were near those periodical stacks. Zimmerman has been part of my life for many years now.

As soon as I saw Fran Wilkinson on Monday morning, I offered to help with fire recovery in any way that I could. I thought that maybe my experiences with the recovery after the CSEL Centennial’s flood in 2004. If I thought about how I would feel if I were my science journals that had gone up in smoke. Zimmerman may not be my “home” library, but nonetheless I have spent plenty of time in the stacks on all floors for my own coursework—and of course to borrow a lot of books. I have also spent a great deal of time in the basement, working with all of the technical services people whose offices were near those periodical stacks. Zimmerman has been part of my life for many years now.

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and authentic experiences I have ever had. It was nearly all-consuming: every moment I spent on campus was devoted to post-fire recovery; it was almost impossible to leave it behind at night, in part because the smell of smoke and dead journals lingered in my clothes, hair, and boots. The gritty reality of working in the stacks is juxtaposed in my memory with: the bizarre and extensive collection of clocks Dan acquired in his office; an hour or two I spent untangling and inventorying a never-ending pile of phones in what had been Sever’s office; and the melted light covers which protected rather than destroyed journals on top shelves. The progress made in the building each day by the packout teams, the cleanup crews, and the contractors was impressive. Being a part of this work and doing the physically demanding tasks required by the circumstances gave me a sense of accomplishment quite different than what I would normally experience at work.

I know that people have wondered why on earth I willingly volunteered to get involved in a dirty, challenging, and, at times, overwhelming and stressful project. I don’t know if I have an answer to that question. Many people have stepped up throughout this experience to help with the recovery, not just of the collections, but also in the restoration of services and workflows. There’s no question that the library staff have a strong commitment to the communities we serve, I think that for many of us, myself included, that level of commitment extends to the physical places as well. It is a place that gives you a tangible connection to philosophers, scientists, and students from years past, when you can pull off the shelf a volume printed ten, fifty, or a hundred years before your own birth. So, in part, my answer to “Why?” is that by working on the fire recovery, I can pay back at least partially an intangible debt I owe to the libraries of my past and current life that have been my refuge when I needed one, and nurtured my own journeys of exploration.

This past year here in the library has been strange because of the fire. Everything just changed. People changed. There was a lot of stress but many people actually got nicer. People just got nicer and everyone was sympathetic. They’d say, “You’re not here anymore; well, where are you?” Everybody wanted to know where you were the day of the fire. And I still can’t believe it’s been over a year. You got to know the security guards. And I saw people who worked for the library that I never knew did. I’d see them come through the building before, but I didn’t know they worked here.

What got to me, too, was that I’d thought, “Construction workers? Messy men.” Actually, they were the cleanest people around, way cleaner than the students. They were very neat. I was surprised by that. I thought they’d destroy the bathrooms, but, no. At one time they were doing something I had to tell their foreman about and he lined them up at lunchtime and told them, so they were mad at me for a while, but not too bad. I asked them, “Would you do that at home?” “No, my wife would kill me,” they’d all tell me. So I said, “Excuse me, just consider me like your wife.” [Laughter]

Many people were very nice … and they were funny. They made me laugh. All through the bad, taking out of stuff and all the walls coming down and all the dirt coming through, they were funny. I enjoyed that time. As bad as the library was burned, it has still been a fun time.
While documenting the fire recovery there was also the aesthetic level for the lack of a better word. Something about the visuals that came out of this whole process was very interesting and some of the photographs I picked came out of that. I think a person’s own sensibilities dictate that, you can’t help it. You’re on your knees looking up; you’re trying to frame it in such a way. I don’t know what it is. You see it in documentaries, with good photographers, you see it in newspapers and magazines—where a photographer’s taken a picture but it’s also a beautiful picture. I’m not saying that I’m trying to do that in a conscious way, but subconsciously you do that.

When the basement was completely demolished, completely empty there were just bare concrete walls. There was all this space that had been full and active and now was just dead, a vacant, open space. At that time there was obviously the potential for looking at it in more than a strictly documentary way.
Deborah Cole  
Special Projects, Center for Southwest Research

CAUTION

At the Welcome Back Days celebration in August 2005, the University Libraries handed out several black and white postcards. One displayed a cheerleader in calf-length skirt, bobby-socks and saddle shoes kicking up a leg beside a huge fire: the bonfire for the 1952 Homecoming football game. I was born in 1952 and, enjoying that connection, carried off one of those cards.

In September 2005, the University Libraries underwent a rather disruptive reorganization. Emotions flared, departments dissolved. Thinking of Nero and a burning Rome, I taped that high-stepping cheerleader and her roaring flames outside my office door.

When a real fire struck Zimmerman Library six months later, I wondered about the power of images then modified that original card. Perhaps in the future we’ll take a bit more care with the images we use to welcome in the academic year.

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Pat B.  
Receptionist, Office of the Dean

I thought the upper administration did a great job in taking quick action, having a quick plan. I don’t think Fran slept for 72 hours. She just had constant decisions to make. If she did sleep, with all that she did, I don’t know how she managed that. I met everyone in the UL under exceptional circumstances and I have to tell you, I was impressed. It feels good to be a part of this group of people and I’m not sure I would have met you if it hasn’t been for Fire Watch.

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Russ Cole  
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

One of the real plusses out of this whole thing, for me at least, was being able to work in Centennial and Parish and getting to know other staff I’d never really taken the time to talk to. Also the students, getting to know the students at both places, and the different climates of the other circulation desks. That was really nice.

And another thing I want to say is how the top levels in the administration really supported us, at least I felt that way. They really helped us deal with the changing situations. And their putting up that display about the fire. I think that really helped impress patrons with the magnitude of the damage, what had really happened. You could just watch them take it in.
Aaron Blecha
Student Employee, Zimmerman Library

The Library of Congress description of the book I made about Zimmerman for my class this semester is “peep show.” My description, however, would be “an accordion-bound perspective book.” It’s a book that lies flat when closed, about the size of a small paperback, but if you pull the book covers apart it is, in effect, very much like an accordion. It expands to a length of two maybe three feet at the most, although that’s a little bit large. The interleaving plates in this accordion structure, if you look through a peep hole at one end of the book, produce a three-dimensional effect. You see a fore-field and various degrees of perspective going back, often in a landscape setting. A project I want to do for a bookmaking class I’m currently enrolled in—and also to highlight the fact that we’ve received several of these “peep show” books in the CSWR collection—is of Zimmerman Library starting with the West Wing and various mashings of the structure of Zimmerman Library. The rear panel will be a plume of smoke coming from the northeast corner of the building through a skylight closest to where the fire in the basement happened. I’m still hunting for images. I know a lot of people are writing poetry and putting together other artistic projects. I hope this will be an addition to those contributions.

Flora Clancy
Professor Emerita, Art and Art History

I found out about the fire from the newspaper—the Albuquerque Tribune—and it took a while to understand how serious it was. I believe Deborah Cole was the one who told me where and how to find out what had been destroyed. When I understood where the major damage had been, I was in denial that it actually and directly affected my research resources. I’ve been working on two research projects, a monograph on the monuments of Piedras Negras, Guatemala and an article on the earliest dated stela of Tikal, Guatemala. Both, of course, are ancient Pre-Columbian art. I use the very periodicals—anthropology and archaeology—that were destroyed in the fire.

I also knew in my gut that the fire had been set on purpose but have no idea whether the subject of the periodicals was a target or just any place in the basement, which would certainly do great damage. When I came to Zimmerman after the fire the building still smelled of smoke. I couldn’t then and I still can’t actually grasp that anyone would do such a thing. Libraries are sacred. I thought of the Library at Alexandria, of Nazi book burnings, of Fahrenheit 451. (I’m not sure I have the degree number correct, but I think it’s the temperature at which books will burn.)

At first, after the fire, I was unbelieving that my usual resources were gone; that I couldn’t consult them. I think it was about three or four months later that I tentatively tried Interlibrary Loan for an article I really needed to read. I had it within 24 hours! “Wow!” I thought, “What a resource!” Since then I have regularly gone to ILL and have been truly pleased with their ability to locate material and their efficiency in delivering it to me. Most of my interaction has been done online, another amazing gift: to receive an article that I just printed out at home. Every time I get material from them I feel grateful to be able to continue my research. I’ve even written them to say so. Without ILL my work would have come to a screeching and noisy halt.
For a long time, it seemed that all I saw were flashes and fragments from those first days after the fire: Shelves fallen in with journals dumped on the floor, everything coated in soot, barely visible with flashlight and emergency lighting. The huge tarp piled high with charred fragments of journals. Pieces of a charred page from the 1800s. Plastic melted on top of the books after flowing down from the melted lights and alarms.

Disbelief. How could it possibly happen? Fury. What evil could do this?

Later: gratitude as colleagues across the country sent their sympathy and offers of help. Even some huge conglomerates that rarely have a caring human face offered support.

Getting things out of my office was incredibly hard, and yet a step forward. Packing in half an hour. Separating my personal things and the things I might need to work with soon. Knowing it could be ages before I saw the rest of the files. Knowing I would never see that office again. Hard to pack and not cry. And yet it was a start toward rebuilding.

Reopening Zimmerman 2nd and 3rd floors was a huge step forward. A few times when I was on Fire Watch, I talked with faculty and former library employees who came to reassure themselves that Zimmerman did survive. It was hurt, but it would recover. Zimmerman had a meaning far beyond just that of a library building; it had an emotional identity that called to people.

And I know we are recovering. The building hasn’t been this clean since it was built. We have new computers, new shelves, new flooring, new electronic journals. We are healing. We will rebuild the basement.

But it will never be exactly the same. A collection that was built over a century with the work of many librarians cannot be completely restored. Beyond that, the sense of violation and vulnerability will never completely go away. My mind knows we are recovering, and even that some things will be much better than they were “Before the Fire.” And my heart still mourns at the evil and the loss.
Sever Bordeianu
Coordinator, Print Resources

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT BY FIRE:
Or how to weed those things that nobody ever read anyway

The cleanup and the packout after the fire were intense. Five of us examined and inventoried thousands of volumes on random topics destroyed in the fire. The fire did not shelfread, it jumped across shelves, and sometimes it burned only the top rows, or skipped some volumes. But journals are always seductive, and even in the middle of this intensity, it was impossible not to open the issue of Paris Match reporting Grace Kelly's car accident, or the issue of a Spanish magazine reporting Franco's death. Trashing those made me feel like I was trashing a moment of my own history, because I remembered vividly when those events occurred, and their impact on world history.

And yet, I probably spent as much time looking through issues of a title that had no impact on world history—and consequently I don't remember much from its content. We had to trash our entire run of the USSR's Bulletin of the International Peasant Union. Twenty-one volumes in all. It was a true Soviet product. The volumes were big and heavy—no way I could pick up more than one or two in one hand. Here was a title that proletarian sweat had produced, at great hardship, during great times of privations for the population, its only purpose being to propagate communist nonsense, and which our library had dutifully collected, bound, and shelved, and which was probably being read for the very first time (the pages looked very pristine behind the burned covers), and for the last time. “Up in smoke” gained a special meaning in this situation. Just like the ideas discussed in the issues of this worthless journal.

I feel that an existential justice had happened, on a small scale, to be sure. I’m sure there are dozens of other research libraries in the world who have not burned down, and where the pristine volumes of this journal are proudly taking up prime space on their library shelves. In the turmoil and the chaos, for a fleeting moment, I felt that for once the fire's indiscriminate destruction did something constructive, something that none of us would have done deliberately. The saddest thing of all, when I checked the LIBROS record, this humble title, Bulletin, had been expertly cataloged with one uniform title and six alternate titles:

- Bulletin (International Peasant Union)
- International Peasant Union bulletin
- International Peasant Union bulletin monthly
- Monthly bulletin of the International Peasant Union
- Monthly bulletin (International Peasant Union)
- Bulletin of the International Peasant Union
- IPU bulletin

No lack of access to this title. And the holdings statement looks great. Sadly, our only gap was v. 4, no. 5.
**Maria Szasz**  
Graduate Student, Department of English  
University Libraries’ National Library Week Student Poetry Contest, Runner-Up

**THE INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF THEATRE**

A heavy three volume set,  
With handsome mauve covers  
Only a scholar could love.  
I once could find them in the dark,  
Lying patiently in the far east stacks  
Of the first floor Zimmerman reference section.  
Over six years and counting,  
Their endless information has fueled  
Essays, exams, a dissertation,  
My dreams.  
An amazing, invaluable resource.  
After The Fire, they were “UNAVAILABLE.”  
Were they lost in the blaze,  
Charred beyond repair?  
Reduced to smoky, black, brittle fragments  
Blowing through cracks in the outside fence?  
Just one of the hundreds of books and journals  
Gone forever in a lick of flame.

Why would anyone destroy books?  
An angry student’s deliberate revenge?  
Or a horrible mistake?  
Official lips say nothing,  
Whenever the motive, the damage is still  
Beyond measure.  
Impacting all of UNM,  
Reverberating through readers around the world.  
My favorite three volume set  
Suffered only minor injuries:  
One broken binding.  
A sad, but small price to pay  
For the safe return of  
Knowledge.  
Reminds me  
Never to take for granted again.
UNM Today, April 30, 2007

“The Provost’s 2007 Outstanding Work Group Award:

Year after year, Center for Academic Programs Support (CAPS) operates one of the most sophisticated and successful student employment programs at UNM. They employ more than 80 tutors at both the undergraduate and graduate level, training them with extensive training in a highly structured work setting. During the last review period, CAPS tutors provided over 30,000 contact hours of academic support to nearly 4,000 UNM students. One year ago, when a basement fire closed Zimmerman Library just two weeks before finals, CAPS staff gave final exam tutoring in borrowed space at the Student Union Building and empty classrooms all over campus. During the summer they set up field operations in Mitchell Hall and served as many students there as they had the previous year. Excellence, professionalism, creativity, and responsiveness are hallmarks of the CAPS program.

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UNM Today, May 7, 2007

“University Libraries is celebrating employees who have gone above and beyond in helping Zimmerman recover from the fire last year. Employees who have made special contributions were recognized at an April event. Three quarters of the University Libraries staff members were displaced by the fire. One third of the staff and faculty who worked in the building remain in temporary spaces at other branches while the basement is rebuilt. Librarians think in terms of books, and Library Specialist in the Center for Southwest Research Deborah Cole is leading a group of employees who are developing a book from the experience. The book will have a limited publication, but celebrates the efforts and experiences of employees through the past year of rebuilding and recovery. Cole said this is one way staff members can handle the changes they have seen in their work environment.”

UNM Today, May 7, 2007

The 2007 Outstanding Work Group Award is sponsored by the University Libraries and recognizes outstanding work by UNM employees who have gone above and beyond in helping Zimmerman recover from the fire last year. Employees who have made special contributions were recognized at an April event. The Provost’s 2007 Outstanding Work Group Award is sponsored by the University Libraries and recognizes outstanding work by UNM employees who have gone above and beyond in helping Zimmerman recover from the fire last year. Employees who have made special contributions were recognized at an April event.

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I never dreamt much about the library before the fire. But since the fire I’ve dreamt about nearly every area in it and some that aren’t.

THE BASEMENT: I guess the one dream that relates most to the library fire is what I like to refer to as the Universal Studios dream. In it, I ride the elevator down to the basement with other people to get a tour of the burned out basement. We get off the elevator and into carts that look just like the big canvas mail bins Louie Perez and Bonifacio Anglada use. The basement is dark and the carts begin to roll across the floor. The closer we get to where the fire took place the more burned out the basement looks with charred bookshelves and destroyed books piled up all around. It is warm and there is a glow from embers still smoldering after the fire. The glow increases and it gets warmer and warmer as we approach the center of where the fire was supposed to have begun.

THE WEST WING: In my favorite dream, the West Wing is what I would imagine an old European style library would look like. It has beautiful parquet floors, polished wooden bookcases and panels in a reddish brown wood full of what look like rare books in leather and velum bindings. The most wonderful part of this area of the library is what used to be the John Gaw Meem Room. The room is an office with polished wooden floors, a large antique desk, and one wall is lined with French doors that open up onto an English garden with lilac bushes, large trees, a fountain and a lawn.

One dream that takes place in this European style West Wing involves a tea party to honor the architects doing the work to restore the basement and the reference area. We eat on fine china and are served tea and coffee from china teapots, by waiters in white jackets and bowties. There is a banquet table with platters full of cookies and pastries. For some odd reason the cookies are shaped like exotic birds and prehistoric fish. In this dream there is a curio cabinet that catches my eye. In it are amber figurines and other objects including one that is a good luck charm that apparently really works. I want to open up the cabinet to use the charm but it is locked.

THE LOBBY AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: In two of my dreams, the main lobby of the library is more like some expensive corporate business office in a big city with marble floors and walls and a big staircase leading up to the 2nd floor. In one dream I go up to the Administrative offices on the 2nd floor and they are also my idea of corporate offices. They have glass and stainless steel walls and very expensive modern looking furniture. I’ve only dreamt once about this part of the Library.

TECHNICAL SERVICES: As for technical services, it has come up in at least two or three dreams now. It is always a maze with very little room to move around. It is packed with desks and people, all separated by bookshelves that are crammed full of books, boxes and papers. In one of these technical services dreams one wall of the building opens out onto a runway where planes land and boxes of books are rolled down a conveyor directly into the library to be processed. If you want to you can book seats on flights. The planes leave directly from the library. However, you do have to go up to the 2nd floor and through security to board them.

VARIOUS FLOORS: In at least two dreams the technical services elevator goes not only to the 3rd floor of the main library, but it connects to all of the tower floors. It is packed with desks and people, all separated by bookshelves that are crammed full of books, boxes and papers. In one of these technical services dreams one wall of the building opens out onto a runway where planes land and boxes of books are rolled down a conveyor directly into the library. Having to go from one floor to another in my library dreams has become a dilemma.

ESCAPE: In one dream, Central Avenue passes right by the north side of the Library and city buses pull up near the loading dock. I get on one of these buses to go home but end up going farther and farther west. Central changes into an L.A. style freeway and I’m on my way to the west coast. Two hours on a city bus on this road and I could make it all the way to L.A! Escape at last!
It seems like the longest year in the near twenty that we have spent together. I was up and about, as usual, around 5 a.m. on the morning of April 30, 2006. After putting about for a bit I turned on the television to KOAT-7 to catch the early news. Stunned and jaw-dropped, I rushed to wake Rik Burkard, a Library Specialist III, working in the Serials & Acquisitions Department in binding and marking who had just completed his 19th year with UNM exactly two months earlier on February 28, 2006.

We watched together in shocked silence as the morning anchors and reporters told what little information was known at that early hour. I could see the devastation on Rik’s face and noticed his shoulders slumping down and hands clasping, both classic motions when he is in distress.

After more than a week of work suspension with little incoming news about the status of the Zimmerman basement, Rik was at last called back to campus. There were so many questions to be answered, not the least of which was where he would actually sit down to do his work. As he came home each evening suffering from anxiety and frustration and sadness, the atmosphere in our household grew more depressive and somber. I certainly didn’t know what to do in support of a person dispossessed from their career employment. It was a struggle for many, many weeks but eventually returned to some normalcy by late summer.

As is his nature, Rik threw himself into the situation and ultimately, with co-workers, was instrumental in re-creating his Zimmerman basement work area in a 2nd floor hallway offered by Parish Memorial Library. The Fire Watch alerts had begun and dozens of dedicated employees signed up to take their training and assignments. As much as he wanted to be a part of that diligent effort, sadly, Rik was not able to participate.

When he was about 12 years old, his three older brothers convinced him to take an enormous whiff from a bottle of industrial ammonia. In an instant Rik’s olfactory nerve was burned and destroyed. Since then he can barely smell anything at all, with even the smell of skunk, leaking gas or intense perfume completely escaping him. He has even lost much of his ability to taste and discern ingredients in food. He has lived with it for more than 35 years without much distress until the Zimmerman Fire Watch was set up. He knew he could not smell smoke and therefore could not take a watch assignment. Just loud enough for him to hear, co-workers wondered aloud why “some people” were exempt from Fire Watch duty while others had to suffer through. Only I can tell you how much that hurt Rik’s feelings, as he would never tell you himself.

In the past 12 months Rik has been instrumental in both finding a home for himself and his co-workers as well as in the restructuring and refurbishment of the Zimmerman basement work area. On April 20, 2007, he was the proud co-recipient of the Bright Idea Award for certain of his efforts. Rik is not an extrovert and it is pretty difficult to tell what emotion is impacting him at any given moment. It’s taken me nearly twenty years, and I’m still not always right in assuming what is going on inside his head or heart. But you can trust me to tell you that the Zimmerman fire impacted him in the extreme and he will never be the same. If you’ll excuse the pun, he has “fire” ants in his pants to get back to the basement to resume the remainder of his career in the UL system.
I noticed the first one while washing my dishes in the West Wing kitchen: a one-inch square sliced into the sheetrock wall. Then I started seeing them everywhere. Most occurred near the baseboards; a few at chest-height. Every floor in the tower had at least two, one at either end. Three had been cut in the small West Wing kitchen and several in each of the walls on the 2nd and 3rd floors in the main part of the library. The empty squares remained where samples had been taken to determine if too much or any ozone from the fire had permeated those walls. In this case, a little bit of absence meant a presence—those walls—could remain.

It seemed only natural to pair those squares with an image I’d taken on my first visit to the basement after the fire, a two-hour Fire Watch shift on the Sunday night before Fall semester 2006 began. “Shadows” of what had been the inside walls of a row of carrels represented the other end of the spectrum of loss this fire had cast. That haunting, scraped-down patina of deconstruction joined the sharp edges of the squares to give voice to the feelings colliding inside me as I walked through an area completely stripped of familiarity and “place.”

I often think, as we—staff, patrons, guards, construction workers and janitors—walk and work and go about our days, that below us the basement waits. The rattling wind and abraded surfaces, raw and disturbing, wait. Just like the unsettling emotions and memories each of us now carry because of what came in the fire’s wake: sharp edges and scraped places, not at all easy to relate. Walls and holes.
It’s interesting, over the course of planning for the renovation, in some ways we’ve switched roles with the architects and designers. They wanted to add some design elements to make a statement. Then we stressed that it really needs to function as a library too. We needed to make sure the collections were near elevators, those kinds of practical considerations. So then they took away all the design pieces and it was really plain. For example, we were trying to figure out what ceiling height was needed to maximize our storage. Can you get an 18-inch clearance between the sprinklers and the books on the top shelf? Of course, we were concerned about maximizing the shelving capacity. The reality of managing and storing a million volumes in this building is not an abstract notion.

Then at some point, somebody said, “Well, do you have to have a dropped ceiling?” And we started thinking about it. So it released this creativity. They told us it can be kind of fun architecturally because you use the venting and conduit as design features.... Then the architects who were working with the designers started playing around with the detail on the columns, selecting furniture, carpet, tile, colors, etc. It felt like the basement was getting its soul back.

Then there’s the office space. When we look at the human factor of all this, it’s been symptomatic of trying to bring people together to make decisions and there’s still a lot of emotion around the loss and changes imposed on people. It’s probably been some of the most challenging processes of the recovery, the human side of it.

Fran Wilkinson, Ed Padilla and I were just looking at how everything is going to converge later this year: the installation of compact shelving in ZIM B1, B2 and B3; the basement remodeling should begin around June 1; and the plans for the move into the new Fine Arts and Design Library in the fall of ’07. And of course the packback of all the materials from the basement. We’ve got over a 100,000 volumes sitting in 17,000 boxes and 200+ cabinets of microfilm in a warehouse in Texas that need to come back. The reality of managing and storing a million volumes in this building is not an abstract notion.

To me the numbers really bring it home, like 3,000 linear feet (the estimate of volumes lost in the fire), what does that really mean? It’s about 36,000 volumes. This is not an insignificant matter and there are those in this organization who I don’t really think have grasped that. It’s not business as usual.

We have an opportunity for change—not just talk about it—but to take action. This is the future, that continuance piece. It’s the “What next? What now?” piece. We’re not putting the library back the way it was. Yes, we are putting books back in a building but we’re not doing it the same way because we know there’s a different path down which we as an organization—as an institution—need to go. We need to put our full energies and resources toward making it happen. So we’ll see if we can pull this off. It’s a little scary. It’s very scary. But worth doing.
Russ Cole
Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

When security is no longer here and the building is all opened up as it was, we’re going to redo some of the training for the shelving crew. But the next time an alarm goes off at night? I try to visualize what that’s going to feel like and what we are going to do.

One thing that haunted me a little, when I do my rounds for checking all the doors, the last rounds either start with the West Wing or basement. The night of the fire, I thought, “Maybe I’ll try the basement first.” Then I thought, “No, I’ll do the West Wing.” So I’d just come back from going all through the West Wing, sat down, took a bite of fried chicken and the alarm goes off. If I’d done it the other way around I might have run across something.

As for the one-year anniversary, the date has occurred to me. I’ll probably mention to the people who are working that night to have a little bit of extra vigilance because right before finals the general population, be they students or whoever, gets a little crazy and if weird things happen, it’s going to happen then. So we’ll be kind of on our toes, though the student workers will be a bit more frazzled, too, so we’ll try to account for all that, but we’ll keep the vigilance maybe one notch higher on that night. Traditionally, if a fight is going to break out in the building between patrons, it’ll happen in finals week. So everyone is edgy.

You know, I mentioned sending that second person up to the 2nd floor and he found people that the other person hadn’t found—it astonished me that they hadn’t heard the alarm. Because I thought they would have. So I realized that I don’t have a clear knowledge of where people don’t hear alarms. Because Verity Robert said, when she went around in the basement—and thank god it was her down there knocking on those study rooms in the basement—they hadn’t heard it at all. So when we get to the point when we’re back fully operational, I want to be real clear on where you can’t hear the alarms. Where the people were sitting and studying on the 2nd floor the night of the fire is where those windows overlook Smith Plaza; they were completely oblivious to the alarm.
It’s not pretty. In fact, probably the best that can be said of it is that it’s moderately appalling. Sorry.

I decided that my contribution to the Fire/Watch Book Project would be to try to determine the effects our Fire Watch efforts may have on posterity. To that end I constructed a time machine out of some spare computer parts I had lying around. I then traveled 100 and 1000 years into the future. I was able to take some pictures.

My first stop was the year 2106. My first task was to get acclimatized. Remember global warming, climate change, melting icecaps? Well, suffice it to say that central Texas now has beachfront property and the Land of Enchantment is now home to several million people who had previously lived in such places as Miami, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, etc. Those people, such as can afford them, wear air conditioned suits; I quickly discovered why—it’s damn hot out there—and I decided to procure one post-haste. Having donned and learned to operate a life-saving suit of my own, I set about my task of exploring the University of New Mexico in the 22nd century and discovering the heritage of the Fire Watch brigade.

Surprisingly, I discovered that many of the old buildings we are familiar with today are still there. My first stop was Parish Library. I was not allowed in as there was a bomb scare in progress. My next stop was at the Centennial Science and Engineering Library. I was not permitted inside as terror watch was making a sweep.

I made my way to Zimmerman Library. I was not allowed to take photos of the outside, due to excessive graffiti, but was able to get inside by bribing a graduate student.

NANCY DENNIS
Assistant Dean

December 11
Jean Delacour processes invoice for $261,857 from Absolute Backorder Service for fire replacement print journals

December 12
ALC relocates from...
Kiosk no. 77,107 is dedicated to the brave and heroic catalogers who participated in the Fire Watch program.

The Heroism of Fire Watch in kiosk no. 65,130 depicts the vanquishing of international terrorism by the Fire Watch brigade.

Kiosk no. 2055 is labeled “Putting out the Fire.” That’s really all I know about it.

...there are still a lot of emotions around the loss and changes imposed on people.

NANCY DENNIS
Assistant Dean

My first stop was, quite naturally, what was once known as Library Information Technology (LIT), that is, what is in our own time—now called Systems/Ops—that is, later known as Systems/Ops. I told them I was a time traveler from the past and was summarily thrown out. Nobody likes a wise guy.

I found the main lobby. I noticed the absence of reading and educational materials, most of which are illegal in any case. However, there are now three coffee shops, a number of trendy boutiques, two spas and a casino.

By the way, welcome to the future; just remember, change is a good thing.

The basement, you will be glad to know, has been done up nicely, and has a spiffy bar offering a complete range of your favorite alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages at moderate prices.

We still have the West Reading Room, which was remodeled in 2089, and now houses two automobile dealerships. The library’s new Dean and sportscar dealer was gracious enough to pose for a photo.

Well, here it is: the Shrine to Fire Watch! There are all these kiosks on the 3rd floor, where there used to be books and stuff. This is actually a holograph, about seven and one half inches high but it can be pretty impressive if you get up close.

ALC completes relocation of Gov Docs to B1

December 1

ALC begins relocation of CSWR manuscript collection from B3 to B2

January 7

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I'll tell you about my trip to the past some time in the future.

I believe there was a scheduled media thing. It's amazing how many

We are reopening with 'limited services' and we will staff the reference desk with

They're not on the DRAT team, so

The final leg of my journey took me 1000 years into the future. It looks like a millennium of

The library will be closed until sometime tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 1, so the water can be pumped out and the electricity restored.

You will be notified as soon as the building reopens.

Everyone has a different answer about why things are the way they are and what happened. It's just like the telephone game.

SAKAR STOHR

Zimmerman will be reopening at 1:00 pm today. I'm aware that Groupwise is

subject: Zimmerman Reopening at 1:00 pm

date: 11/1/2007 10:26 AM

to: ZIMREFDESKS-L

from: Teresa Neely

You will be notified as soon as the building reopens.

We are pleased to report that good progress is being made on the

We are reopening with 'limited services' and we will staff the reference desk with

Subject: Zimmerman Library Closed

date: 10/31/07 3:34 PM

to: ALL UNIVERSITY-L

from: Teresa Neely

You will be notified as soon as the building reopens.

The final leg of my journey took me 1000 years into the future. It looks like a millennium of global warming, war, exercise, stupidity, hubris, unbridled materialism, and good old fashioned bungling have taken their toll. What can I say?

That's the bad news. The good news is, as I discovered in my travels, we can actually change

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SAKAR STOHR
There's not much else I can add to this message. I think the Dean might be getting pressure to reopen late tomorrow, so ZPS staff, please stay close to your telephones and e-mail in case we need to call you in. We'll know more after the DRAT meeting. If you are not on the DRAT team, please do not show up at Zimmerman because you probably will not be let in tomorrow morning. After staff and student employees and tenants were allowed to get their things and leave, students who had left items in the building were escorted in by library staff. It was a pretty civil process and worked out pretty well once we had caution tape on the doors and security guards outside. I believe we may have stopped the retrieval of personal items around 4:00 because I believe there was a scheduled media thing. It's amazing how many Lobo and other news media people showed up soon after the flooding.... There is a pretty civil process and worked out pretty well once we had caution tape on the doors and security guards outside. I believe we may have stopped the retrieval of personal items around 4:00 because I believe there was a scheduled media thing. It's amazing how many Lobo and other news media people showed up soon after the flooding.

I'll tell you about my trip to the past some time in the future.

I'll tell you about my trip to the past some time in the future.

That was really about all I could take. I had to get out of there, and am unlikely to go back.
Hello colleagues,

I’ve just had my first trial by “flood!” Yesterday afternoon at 2:30 a pipe connector on a new ten inch pipe in our new fire suppression system in our newly renovated basement (destroyed by fire last year) failed—spewing thousands of gallons of water.

The 60,000 square foot basement had a water level of nearly 7 inches. It took 8 pumper trucks to remove the bulk of the water, the rest now to be vacuumed and sought out in all the crannies it leaked into. Water filled our elevators and leaked into our two sub-basements. We had to shut down the building and evacuate. One student was quoted in the newspaper as saying, “It sucks because I have a big test tomorrow.”

We reopened with limited services today at 1pm. Fortunately, the 100,000 volumes recently returned from storage after the fire were still being staged and were not in the basement. About 50,000 volumes were at immediate risk, but many were on compact shelving 7 inches above floor level. Only about 100 volumes were splashed significantly enough to be sent off for freeze dry. Our double archival boxes and quick action by the staff saved all the archival materials.

The fire recovery/renovation was nearly complete before this flood. Just touch up and moving in left. New carpet, tile, drywall, bookshelves, compact shelving, staff cubicles and offices, group study areas—all just waiting to be filled....

All of the new carpet and the old carpet in the sub-basements will have to be removed and replaced. Drywall and insulation will be removed up to about 4 feet. I am still optimistic that we will reopen early in the spring semester.

The Library staff and UNM support service response was remarkable. UNM has a seasoned disaster response group!

With warmest regards,
Martha

Martha A. Bedard, Dean of University Libraries
Claire-Lise Benaud and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
Pat B., Office of the Dean
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access
Heidi Perea, Parish Library

Claire-Lise: Well, Mary Ellen and I commented yesterday—as we have read and re-read and cut
and pasted and re-cut and re-pasted the contributions—that we are knowing our colleagues in
a way we didn’t before. People we don’t interact with and we say, “Oh, look how interesting.”
Or even people that we do interact with, we say, “Oh, look how interesting that is!”

Mary Ellen: And to say, “Who would have thought so-and-so is so poetic?”

C-L: And in almost every piece there was humor. A little bit here and there of something funny.
I would think, “Well, I didn’t know so-and-so could actually be funny.”  [Laughter]  But actually,
yes!

We were really impressed by our colleagues. It gives you a really good feeling for your colleagues
that in everyday life either you don’t see it or in professional discussions it doesn’t come up.
So it gives you a very good sense of how thoughtful and insightful our colleagues are. Usually
competition among us is just horrendous: space, staffing, offices (and how big that office is).
It was so refreshing because in all these stories it is never about competition; it’s just about
our experience. I don’t know many of my colleagues in that light, because, professionally,
competition is central to what we do.

Deborah: Same people, different script.

… it isn’t the story, it’s a story.

Deborah Cole

FIRE/Watch Book Group
Claire-Lise Benaud and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
Pet B., Office of the Dean
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access
Heidi Perea, Parish Library
Those still here, those recently come, those who’ve moved on since April 30, 2006

This book is our collective history of the Zimmerman fire; your contributions made it possible.

We extend our sincerest thanks for your earnest and heartfelt interviews.

We extend our sincerest thanks for the artwork, photographs and timeline contributions.

We extend our sincerest thanks for the clever humor.

We extend our sincerest thanks for the thoughtful and poignant narratives.

We extend our sincerest thanks for your hopeful and encouraging words.

We extend our sincerest thanks for your stories, those included here, as well as those told in confidence or in passing; it was an honor to be entrusted with them.

The Fire/Watch Book Group
January, 2008

“This book, it’s a public conversation. There’s a big difference between the private and the public. I’ve had many private discussions with people over time and none of it appears in the contributions I’ve read. I’m sure there are a lot of stories which are not reflected in the book.”

CLARIE-LISE BENAUD
CSWR

“This is something I thought of after we did the first interview. It’s really an obvious thing, but still. All those books. You all are doing this great project that’s really healing for lots of us and it’s going to be a book. You’re making a book out of this, out of those books being burned. That’s really great.”

RUSS COLE
Zimmerman Library

“The good news is, as I discovered in my travels, we can actually change the future by the decisions we make in the present. Most of us won’t, but most of us don’t have to; just enough of us.”

CARL DONSBACH
LIT

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

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The Fire/Watch Book Group
January, 2008

Anticipated: March
Displaced UL employees to move into remodeled basement

Anticipated: March 24
Zimmerman basement to open to public

Ongoing
Until the State Fire Marshal continues to investigate the cause of the April 30, 2006 fire...