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.
We had this little office in which three of us were working—it was a little bit smaller than your office here, which is 10 by 12 feet or so. We’re very lucky we got along.

AARON BLECHA  
Student Employee

There are days when there’s just not enough oxygen for us all in the building.

SUSAN MAGEE  
Web Services

So it had this guise of a ship that had sunk and all the surrounding ships in the fleet were trying to rescue these sailors or passengers that had been on board it. Every time I encountered this line of three or four people coming towards me and I’d recognize another 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 know how they felt, except I had food.

SUSAN MAGEE  
Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies

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 22, and they 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 know how they felt, except I had food.

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Evangela 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 corner.

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 finds 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

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?"

Consuelo: Or, Shiu'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 CSWR 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.

Ellie Cushing-Cruver CAPS

It was terrible.

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

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-no-no-.

Because of the investigation and insurance and that. We were in a room that had two ethernet
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 those 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?" [Laughter] 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." [Laughter] 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. They had a closet where we could keep our books and the people there were very good about it. They'd say, "I think you can come back at this time;" then, "Well, no, we think it's going to be another time." The staff was there, but we didn’t know when we were going to be able to come back.

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

L: Yes. And we tried not to take too much stuff out. We bought a lot of stuff at the bookstores. She said, "Okay, everyone needs a little notebook." So she would come back with a little notebook for each of us. "Everybody needs a pen." So she’d come back with pens. She made sure that we had the supplies we needed. I’d say, "Oh, I need a blue highlighter." And she’d write it on her little list and go get it.

Kathleen Keating

"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

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 Duck Pond, see the ducks and the turtles or whatever. We’re going to miss that.

D: So what was it like when you finally knew you were coming back?

L: You know, it’s like when you go on vacation, it’s really hard to pack the bags when you’re on the way out the door, but when you’re in the hotel you know what goes in the bag, so you can just put it in your bag and get on.

Kathleen Keating

Reference Coordinator, University Libraries
Twila Firmature
Coordinator, User Services

We did not have to interrupt any services after the first week. Centennial gave us a room on campus. Usually our meetings, if they end early, just end. People leave. Well, at this meeting, people didn't leave. They stayed, which was fine with me. They needed that contact. That's an aspect I'm not always aware of since I own computers. And I soon learned that though we could work from home if we needed to, some of our team to come into work physically. A couple chose to work at home from their own computers. And two laptops where people could come and check e-mail. We scheduled people there for a few hours at a time, so that everyone had some time on those computers. This allowed us to meet everyone's needs in short order.

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 near a working phone. If you are not a relocated worker, please note in your message your current location: room number, building, and near a working phone. E-mail and a voice mail, please note having done so, so we know the situation. Thank you, thank you, thank you... We will be in touch. Nancy and Seyer

Purchases: For any purchases, fire-related or otherwise, please follow the normal request and approval procedures. If you have any questions, please call us and leave us a voice-mail. And we'll get back to you.

Telephones: We are also following normal telephone request procedures for any fire-related phone moves. These have to be coordinated at Telecommunications in order to be submitted properly to Risk Management.

Timesheets: Biweekly timesheets need to be filled out as normal while on administrative leave. Student timesheets need to be submitted for hours worked during this time period, which is following our normal procedures. Timesheets will be due following the regular schedule, which is Friday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m. More information to follow next week on where to turn your timesheets in depending on where BCM is located.

TO: LIBPERS-L

SUBJECT: Budget and Cost Management Reminders

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TO: DRAT-L

SUBJECT: Current approved priority list

Please see the approved priority list for computers in the attached spreadsheet. I currently am working with the State Library to get additional computers on site.

The agreement is finalized and the equipment on site, we should be able to meet everyone's needs in short order.

TO: GRANT-L

SUBJECT: Current approved priority list

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

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

The agreement is finalized and the equipment on site, we should be able to meet everyone's needs in short order.

Twila Firmature
Coordinator, User Services

We did not have to interrupt any services after the first week. Centennial gave us a room on campus. Usually our meetings, if they end early, just end. People leave. Well, at this meeting, people didn't leave. They stayed, which was fine with me. They needed that contact. That's an aspect I'm not always aware of since I own computers. And I soon learned that though we could work from home if we needed to, some of our team to come into work physically. A couple chose to work at home from their own computers. And two laptops where people could come and check e-mail. We scheduled people there for a few hours at a time, so that everyone had some time on those computers. This allowed us to meet everyone's needs in short order.

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wasn't always a good room for us to hold them in. We needed that personal contact. After that we tried to have regular meetings, though there meeting, people didn't leave. They stayed, which was fine with me. They needed that contact.

room on campus.

not the emotions.

tend to be thinking about what needs getting done. I register the tasks and the projects, but most people also needed that social contact. That's an aspect I'm not always aware of since I own computers. And I soon learned that though we could work from home if we needed to, some of our team to come into work physically. A couple chose to work at home from their a few hours at a time, so that everyone had some time on those computers.

We did not have to interrupt any services after the first week. Centennial gave us a room on the north side of the Reference suite in Centennial. That helped a little. But it was too close to student hours. It was a great room, but every student came in at all

We felt guilty about it. I think about people in Acquisitions, how they got right into what they were doing and "Boom!" they're back into their jobs and they're working like dogs. And I felt guilty. I felt guilty when I thought about the people who couldn't work from home. It was a very strange situation. I'd do Fire Watch, my reference hours and the Mesa Vista satellite

... we really had to redefine our boundaries.

and then

and then

Dr. Arthur W. Theriault

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)

(Twila Firmature)
Evangel Oates and Sarah Stohr
Library Residents, University Libraries

Sarah: One of the things I thought 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 Perez, Evangel, Michele Malo, Aminole 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]

Evangel: 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 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/Web 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, isn't everyone who works here regularly? There are at least two or three other people.” And they said, “Yeah, there's Ross Sutter and Joanne Dondash” 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 RPMBA 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 3rd
As more and more of you enter Zimmerman let me remind each of you that YOU MUST sign out with the security guard when you leave. Should an alarm sound and you have not signed out, it is presumed you are in the building and there would be a room-to-room check to find you. Please ensure that when you leave, you sign out with the security guard. Your cooperation is vital to the success of Zimmerman.

DAN BARKLEY Government Information/Reference e-mail, June 9, 2006

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DAN BARKLEY Government Information/Reference e-mail, June 9, 2006
July 19

CSWR conservation lab reopens and added to fire watch route

Dwight lower level remodel plans developed

Occupancy loads, soil bearing capacities, concrete strength, floor design loads, roof design loads and concourse design loads examined

July 21

West Wing air quality tested by Safety and Risk Services

Furniture brought from storage for Zimmerman and.libraries.

“Where was I last? There was no pattern. That was a time.”

Evangela Oates
Library Resident

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

We are 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, break room.
Renewing some old
Acquaintances, and also
Making some new friends.

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

Vanessa Archer
Operations Manager
Circulation, Parish Library

“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
Crush! Crush! Crush!
8 women in a box were we
Craziness abounding
Fighting ever, yielding never!
Hail! Hail! Hail!

CAPS Staff
(those 8 women in a box)