

**University of New Mexico School of Law
Law Library Annual Report
July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006**

Carol A. Parker, Director

During 2005-06, the Law Library continued to support the curricular and research functions of the Law School community and citizens of the State of New Mexico.

PERSONNEL

Staff

Tom Huesemann retired from his LIS III position in February 2006. Also in 2006, the Law Library promoted two bargaining unit employees, Jeanette Hennie and Robert Flinkman, from LIS I to LIS II, to reflect their increased responsibilities subsequent to the reorganization the Library underwent in the prior year. The process for revising individual Law Library job descriptions and developing written standard operating procedures that reflect the reorganization also continued in the past year. The Law Library staff participated widely in training and professional/career development activities.

Faculty

With the hire of Sherri Thomas, Visiting Librarian, in October 2005, the Law Library faculty increased to 7.0 FTE. Sherri also worked for the Utton Center part of the year, developing a database of water technology law under a Department of Energy grant. In January 2006, Ronald Wheeler and Michelle Rigual were promoted to Assistant Directors, and in the spring of 2006, Ron Wheeler and Michelle Rigual moved to tenure-track status. All of the Law librarians participated widely in training and professional/career development activities.

SERVICE, INSTRUCTION, AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Library was open to the public an average of 90 hours per week. The Library gate counted 126,757 patron visits in the past year, very similar to the 127,111 counted in the previous year. The Library checked out or renewed 19,999 items and loaned 268 items to other libraries around the country. The Library Circulation Desk continued to be staffed by a mix of permanent Library staff and part-time Law student employees.

The Law librarians provided reference service from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays, for a total of 49 hours. Law student employees also assisted patrons with their research requests. A program to provide reference service once weekly from within the Law School Clinic was continued throughout the year. The breakdown of the reference questions taken at the Reference Desk was as follows: 760 Law students (19.42%), 1,874 citizens (47.89%), 712 bar members (18.19%), and 567 other (14.49%), for a total of 3,913 questions at the Reference Desk.

Services provided to Law faculty were tabulated separately. The Law librarians completed 396 requests for faculty research assistance. Librarian-supervised Law student research assistants continued to assist the librarians in this work. The Law Library also delivered 650 books and 205 articles to Law faculty during the year.

This work was supported in part by the Law Library Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Department, which placed requests for 426 items from Law faculty and students and received 611 requests from other libraries. Overall, the ILL Department processed 1,215 requests.

Law faculty assistance, ILL work, and general reference questions totaled 6,379 instances of support provided by the Law librarians and the library staff in 2005-06.

Although the Law Library already provides many services for citizens who come to the building to use the collection and databases, the Library aggressively expanded its community outreach program in 2005-06 to increase citizen access to legal information. In the past year, librarians provided 18 training sessions for non-law librarians and community groups around the state. Communities visited in 2005-06 included: Las Cruces, Espanola, Tucumcari, Farmington, Crownpoint, Taos, Valencia, Gallup, Ruidoso, Alamogordo, Rio Rancho, Truth or Consequences, and Hobbs. These efforts maximize the State's investment in the Law Library by making its resources and services available to greater numbers of New Mexico citizens.

The Law Library also continued to work closely with the UNM Clinical Law Program to provide access to licensed legal databases for the Native American Access to Justice Practitioner Network. Under this program, which began in July 2005, volunteer attorneys and tribal court advocates provide pro bono or reduced-fee representation to Native American clients whose cases the Southwest Indian Law Clinic cannot accept. In return, Network volunteers receive free access to Loislaw (an Internet-based database of federal & 50-state primary law), and four Aspen online practice libraries with forms (family law, elder law, personal injury, and general litigation). In January 2006, librarians visited the Crownpoint Institute Library and San Juan College Library to promote the program. Librarians also attended the Navajo Nation Bar Conference in June 2006 to promote the program.

In 2006, the Law librarians also participated in the State Bar's Access to Justice Program and helped develop standardized forms for pro se patrons to use in the local Metro court system. These forms are now available at the Law Library as well. The Law Library's work with the Access to Justice Program continues.

The Law Library continued to offer a range of research instruction opportunities for Law School faculty and staff and for other groups. In their role as educators, the Law Library faculty provided a total of 139 training sessions during 2005-06, for a total of 1,890 attendees. The Law librarians taught five sections of Advanced Legal Research classes in the Law School during 2005-06. The librarians also received approval from the Law School Curriculum Committee to begin to offer classes in Specialized Legal Research beginning in the next academic year. Rotating topics will include research in Indian Law, Resources Law, and International Law. In addition, the Law Library provided research instruction on New Mexico practice and primary materials as part of the Law School Clinic orientation. Training sessions also included tours and informal classes for paralegal students from CNMCC and for undergraduate and graduate students from other programs at the University. Michelle

Rigual also taught PREPP for the Law School in July 2005. In addition, the Law librarians held a legal research education “summit” meeting in July 2005. It provided the Law librarians with a forum to exchange teaching ideas and to discuss ways in which legal research instruction services could be improved. The proposal for offering Specialized Legal Research classes was developed at this meeting. It was so successful, the librarians intend to have a similar meeting at least once each year.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION

The UNM Law Library houses the largest academic legal research collection in the State of New Mexico. In 2005-06, the Law librarians continued their systematic and collaborative development of the collection, and the Library staff continued to maintain the collection and make it available to legal researchers. Because of a one-time special appropriation—which was made recurring in the Spring of 2006—the Library was able to purchase a significant number of legal monographs for the collection for the first time in several years. Overall, the Library added 6,839 new volumes in print and microform formats to the collection. At the end of the fiscal year, the Library held 429,740 volumes in print and microform formats, placing it in the “large” library category under ABA accreditation standards.

The Director continued to work with the Desert States Law Library Consortium to refine a plan for cooperative collection development on a regional basis. The Desert States group continued to pledge to share collection resources among the Desert States libraries.

In 2005, the Law Library and the University Libraries System cooperatively purchased the U.S. Serial Set online. Hopefully, this is the beginning of an era of cooperative collection development with the University Libraries system that will result in additional cost savings for the University and Law School.

Processing and indexing of the documents in the Gov. Bruce King Archive began in earnest in August 2005 and will continue for three years. The processing is being done under a contract with the archivists at UNM’s Center for Southwest Research.

FACILITIES

In 2005-06, the Law School IT Department installed wireless Internet broadcasters in the Law Library, which have been very popular with the Law students, as so many of them now have laptops. To upgrade the Library carrels, new lighting was installed. In 2006-07, the Library plans to install power strips in the carrels as well, to further accommodate the increased student use of laptop computers. In 2005-06, the Law Library received several pieces of artwork on loan from the artists, which it now displays by the front desk, the upper floor, and the administrative suite.

In 2005-06, Room 3313 in the Law Library was converted into a classroom for teaching legal research classes, including Advanced Legal Research and Specialized Legal Research. The new classroom is near the core print collection on the upper floor and has been outfitted with a wireless Internet broadcaster and built-in projector, screen, and instructor computer—all of which greatly enhance the librarians’ ability to simultaneously teach both print and electronic resources in their research classes.

In 2005-06, the Law Library received a special appropriation to establish the Gov. Bruce King Archive & Reading Room within the Library. Construction to transform the Copier Room on the upper level into a Reading Room began in September 2005. The resulting meeting space now houses photographs and memorabilia from Gov. King's three terms as New Mexico's governor. The Reading Room was dedicated on April 6, 2006, with a ceremony attended by approximately 400 political dignitaries and other guests.

In the spring, several librarian offices received new furniture and carpeting—something that was badly needed, since the carpeting was nearly 30 years old and the furniture very dated. The Library also began the planning process to replace the carpeting on the upper level of the Library in 2006-07. Additionally, the Library started making plans to remodel the Circulation Desk in 2006-07. It is believed the Circulation Desk is original to the building, and it is sorely in need of modernizing to accommodate modern electronic equipment. The renovations will be timely, as an American Bar Association inspection is scheduled for Fall 2007.

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

In 2005-06, the Law Library continued tweaking its recently redesigned web page, using a proxy server to provide remote access to its databases for Law faculty and students, and using its web page hit counter to generate usage statistics of the various databases and web page sections—all of which were introduced in the previous year. In 2005-06, the Law Library home page had 155,092 visits.

In 2005-06, the Law Library continued to make eight PCs available for public access to its legal research databases, for word processing, and for Internet access. The Law Library also entered into a new contract to provide printing and copying machines for members of the public. Because of the new equipment, patron copy card values are now stored on a server rather than on magnetic card strips, which prevents accidental loss of monetary value. Because the Library Copy Room was turned into the King Reading Room, the copiers are now distributed throughout the library, to place them closer to the points of need.

In 2005-06, the Law Library licensed a total of 34 different online databases, the vast majority of which were available for both the Law School community and public patrons who visited the Law Library. The Library added electronic access to 860 electronic journals and 22,217 electronic books in the past year, all of which are also available to the public. In the past year, the Law Library also began to offer a public license for Westlaw, which can be accessed from within the Law Library.

The Law Library took on a leadership role within the Law School in promoting use of UNM's institutional repository, DSpace, as a means of preserving electronic scholarly and teaching materials created by the Law faculty. To assist in this work, the Law Library purchased a color book scanner to enable digitization of work. In September 2005, the Library Director made a presentation to the Law faculty to promote the use of DSpace. The Law Library and Law School now have 67 documents archived in DSpace.

The Law librarians also continued to use the Faculty Research Requests database that it introduced to the faculty in the previous year. The custom-designed, web-based database,

which the Law School IT Department helped set up, enables members of the Law faculty to initiate library service requests and monitor their status. It offers request forms that automatically route requests to Library staff for action. This tool gives all librarians access to information about pending faculty requests, facilitates teamwork, and generates statistics on the processed work requests. In 2005-06, with the help of the database to track and count the work, the librarians and research pool students were able to complete the faculty research support work described in the Services section above, and the librarians reported that the new database has become a valuable and integral part of their work process.

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY FACULTY

The Law Library continued to collaborate with the University Libraries System and other libraries in the LIBROS consortium. Law librarians served on various University and Law School committees.

The Law Library Director served as the Law School representative on the Faculty Senate, and continued to serve ex officio on the Faculty Senate Library Committee. She also served on the Planning Committee for the 4th annual UNM Scholarly Communications Symposium, which the Law Library co-sponsored with the University Libraries System and the Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center.

Law librarian, Barbara Lah, sponsored a booth at the UNM Peace Studies Peace Fair and served on the Health Sciences Library's Tribal Services Librarian Search Committee.

Law librarian, Michelle Rigual, served as a member of the LIBROS Advisory Board and attended that board meeting in May 2006.

Law librarian, Lorraine Lester, continued to serve on the Faculty Senate Budget Committee.

OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY FACULTY

Director Carol Parker served on the New Mexico Compilation Commission Advisory Committee through August 2005 and continued to serve on the Board of the Association of Academic Research Libraries of New Mexico. She also attended the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) meeting in San Antonio in July 2005; a conference on the use of court records in empirical research in Kansas City in October 2005; and a conference on the open access movement and legal scholarship in Portland in March 2006. She also served on the search committee for the New Mexico Supreme Court Law Librarian. After Robert Mead was hired by the Supreme Court to be its Library Director, Carol worked with him to establish an agreement to work cooperatively with the Supreme Court Library to provide outreach services to citizens and attorneys of New Mexico.

Law librarian, Eileen Cohen, served as the Law Library representative on the Association of Academic Research Libraries of New Mexico Document Delivery and Collection Development Committees. In October 2005, she attended the NMLA Conference, where she also gave a presentation. She attended the 2005 AALL meeting in San Antonio and the 2006 SWALL meeting. She provided continuing education sessions at public and academic libraries in Ruidoso Public, UNM-Valencia, Alamogordo Public, Las Cruces Public, New

Mexico State University, and Truth or Consequences Public as part of the Law Library's expanded outreach program.

Barbara Lah attended the 2005 AALL meeting in San Antonio and the 2006 NMLA conference in Farmington, where she also gave a presentation. Additionally, she served on the Board of the New Mexico Library Foundation as secretary of the Board. She visited the Rio Rancho Public Library and the San Juan Community College as part of the Law Library's expanded outreach program.

Lorraine Lester attended the Spring 2006 Federal Library Depository conference.

Michelle Rigual attended the 2005 AALL meeting in San Antonio and served on the Hospitality Committee. At that meeting, she was elected to be the first Secretary/Treasurer of the newly-founded AALL Latino Caucus. During the past year, she served as editor of the newsletter of the AALL Special Interest Section on Research Instruction. In April 2006, Michelle attended the annual meeting of SWALL, having served on its Programming Committee during the past year. While there, she presented a session, served as a program coordinator, and moderated another session. She also taught a CLE workshop for the National Business Institute in December 2005 and called on Northern New Mexico College Library in Espanola in August 2005 as part of the Law Library's expanded community outreach program. She represented the Law Library at UNM Day in Santa Fe in January 2006 and attended the Spring 2006 Federal Library Depository Conference.

Law librarian, Sherri Thomas, attended the Federal Indian Bar Conference, the Southwest Peoples of Color Conference, the UNM Black Indians Conference, the Energy/Water Eastern Needs Workshop, and the Energy/Water Western Needs Workshop in the past year. She served on the Planning Committee for the 2007 Southwest Peoples of Color Conference. She called on the San Juan Community College, UNM-Gallup Branch, and Crownpoint Institute as part of the Law Library's community outreach program. She represented the Law Library at UNM Day in Santa Fe in January 2006.

Law librarian, Ron Wheeler, attended the 2005 AALL meeting in San Antonio and continued to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the AALL Special Interest Section on Social Responsibility, as a Member-at-Large of the Special Interest Section on Research Instruction, and as a member of the AALL Placement Committee. Ron also served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the AALL Special Interest Section on Social Responsibility Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues and served as a Member-at-Large for the Special Interest Section of Research Instruction. Ron attended the annual meeting of SWALL, having served on its Programming Committee during the past year, and acted as coordinator and moderator of a session. He called on five academic libraries in outlying communities as part of the Law Library's expanded outreach program.

10/23/06