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UNM School of Law Library Annual Report 1997-1998

School of Law Library Director

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ANNUAL REPORT 1997/98

During 1997/98, the Law Library continued to support the curricular and research functions of the Law School community. Library staff provided training on legal research for various law schools classes and outside groups, provided reference and research support for the various constituencies which rely on the Law Library, and maintained and modestly expanded the materials available to legal researchers.

LIBRARY STAFF

The Law Library filled two vacancies in 1997/98. In November 1997, Marsha Baum joined the Law School as Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library. In August 1997, the Law Library filled an LIS III position in the public services area by hiring Robert Mead, a graduate of the U.N.M. Law School. Four positions remained vacant: reference librarian, access services librarian, and two staff positions.

The Law Library's organizational structure was modified in 1997/98. Administrative responsibilities were rearranged to increase staff availability for direct service to patrons.

The Law Library staff participated widely in training and professional/career development activities. All staff members attended a customer service workshop to reinforce the Law Library goal of demonstrating strong service orientation. A majority of the staff were able to participate in site visits to other law libraries in the region. The visits offered the opportunity to observe alternative means of handling law library operations and to gain a broader perspective on law librarianship. In addition, staff members attended various workshops and conferences including a workshop on computer networking, a Windows NT training program, the annual SWALL and AALL meetings, and the annual CALI meeting.

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

The Law Library continued to collaborate with the UNM General Library and other libraries in the INNOPAC consortium. As a result of the membership in this consortium, the Law Library shares a sophisticated automated library system and has access to the holdings information for the other libraries in the consortium.

Law Library staff members participated on various University and Law School committees. The Law Library director attended meetings of the Faculty Senate Library Committee as an observer to help facilitate communication among libraries. Lorraine Lester served the University as a member of the Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee. Bill Jacoby and Tom Huesemann served on career development committees for UNMPact. Mary Custy attended meetings of the Law School Curriculum Committee. Tom Huesemann participated on the Law School Library Committee.

SERVICES AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The Law Library increased visibility of reference service and level of coverage by professional staff. In 1997/98, the Law Library instituted a schedule of reference hours utilizing the expertise of all librarians and staff in both Information Services and Access Services departments.   The Law Library reduced reliance on student workers at service points and now schedules a staff member in the library all hours the library is open.

The Law Library staff offered a range of training opportunities for Law School faculty and staff and for other groups. Staff provided training tours and informal classes for paralegal students from TVI and for graduate students from other programs at the University. Training demonstrations on various products were arranged for faculty and staff. Direct offerings for law students included: hands-on training on both LEXIS and Westlaw for all first year students, training on bill tracking for the Legislative and Administrative Process course, training on Indian Law research, and an expanded electronic legal research training program. In addition, Eileen Cohen taught the Law School's Advanced Legal Research course during the Spring 1998 semester.

COLLECTION

The Law Library book budget benefited from the addition of $74,000 to the base budget. As a result of this increase, the Law Library was able to maintain the current collection and to add monographic titles during 1997/98. The Law Library also added CD-ROM titles such as Matthew Bender libraries and Shepard's citators to be used on the Library's CD-ROM tower. The Law Library collection also benefited from a number of gifts including materials from the State Justice Institute offered by Judge Tommy Jewell.

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Law Library continued to make progress in increasing access to electronic information. New PCs were purchased for all staff members to allow them to use the new resources and to make effective use of the Law School network. The Law Library purchased PCs to allow researchers to access the Internet and the Law Library CD-ROM server.

The Law Library assisted various Law School groups in developing web pages and installing the pages on the University server. Bill Jacoby helped to create web pages for the Natural Resources Journal, the U.S.-Mexico program, the Guanajuato program, and the clinics.

FUTURE PLANS

The Law Library is developing new training and support services. The Law Library is working with the New Mexico Bar on CLE offerings. A pilot project to provide research support for New Mexico District Court judges is in progress. As vacant librarian and staff positions are filled, reference hours and other services will be expanded.

The Law Library will continue to explore applications of technology to research and library services. In 1998/99, the CD-ROM server and 8-10 research PCs will be made available to library patrons. As resources move onto the Internet, the Library will provide access and links from the Law Library web page.