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UNM School of Law Library Annual Report 2003-2004

School of Law Library Director

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University of New Mexico School of Law
Law Library Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Michelle Rigual, Co-Interim Director
Ronald Wheeler, Co-Interim Director

During 2003-04, 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 school classes and outside groups, provided reference and research support for the various constituencies that rely on the Law Library, and maintained its collection of materials available to legal researchers.

DIRECTOR SEARCH

In August 2003, Marsha Baum resigned as Director of the Law. Librarians Michelle Rigual and Ron Wheeler were appointed by Dean Scarnecchia to serve as Co-Interim Directors. During 2003-04 the Law Library undertook a national search for a new director. Professor Leo Romero chaired the search committee, which also consisted of Professor Ted Occhialino, Co-Interim Director Ron Wheeler, and library staff members Carolyn Kelly and Marilyn Jaramillo-Garcia. The position was posted in September 2003, and interviews were conducted in January 2004. An offer was accepted by Carol A. Parker, Assistant Director, Wayne State University Law Library, who began serving as Assistant Professor of Law and Law Library Director, effective July 1, 2004.

LIBRARY STAFF

During 2003-04, the Law Library filled one reference librarian position by permanently hiring our visiting librarian, Barbara Lah. Marilyn Jarmillo-Garcia and JoAnn Lucero both undertook successful career ladder advancements. In the Technical Services department, one staff member, David Epstein, retired, and a new Serials supervisor, Rea Winters, and Serials support person, Nha Nguyen, were hired. The Law Library went through a series of staffing changes in Access Services during 2003-2004 with three staff persons resigning or transferring. One of these positions was filled by a new employee, Jeanette Hennie, and the other two were filled with temporary employees, pending the arrival of the new director.

The Serials unit continued to experience a significant backlog of materials for check-in during 2003-04, although the new Serials team who inherited the backlog from the previous year made much progress. The backlog, though much diminished, still remained at the end of 2003-04.

The Law Librarians attended the annual AALL conference in July 2003 in Seattle, and the Co-Interim Directors participated on AALL committees, presented educational programming, and were elected to offices in the Association. The Law Library staff participated widely in training and professional/career development

activities. Staff members attended various workshops and conferences including computer training classes and the annual SWALL and AALL meetings.

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

The Law Library continued to collaborate with the UNM General Library and other libraries in the INNOPAC consortium. Law Library staff members participated on various University and Law School committees. The Law Library Co-Interim Directors were included as observers for the Faculty Senate Library Committee to help facilitate projects among libraries.

SERVICES AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The Law Library continued to provide reference service until 9 pm Mondays through Thursdays as well as weekends. A program to provide reference service once weekly from within the law school clinic proved to be popular and was continued throughout the year. During the past year the Reference Desk received a total of 5,514 requests (25% from law students and faculty, 18% from practitioners and bar members, 41% from pro se patrons, and 16% from other students). Other Library service points, including the Circulation Desk, continued to be staffed only with permanent library staff, eliminating the reliance on student workers for desk coverage.

The Faculty research assistant pool, staffed by law students supervised by librarians, continued to assist the law librarians with faculty, N.M. Court of Appeals, American Indian Law Center and CaTS research support. The RA pool handled 68 requests from 26 different members of the law faculty.

The Law Library Interlibrary Loan (ILL) department placed requests for 386 items from our faculty and law students, and received 453 requests from other Libraries. Overall our ILL department processed 839 requests.

The Law Library staff offered a range of training opportunities for Law School faculty and staff and for other groups. The Law Library continued to provide training tours and informal classes for paralegal students from TVI and for undergraduate and graduate students from other programs at the University. The Law Library Faculty conducted 13 library tours for 279 students from New Mexico Highlands, TVI, Metro College, The College of Santa Fe, Webster University, and students from other UNM Departments such as the School of Architecture and Planning, Health Sciences, and the Anderson School of Business.

The Law Library Faculty provided 23 specialized, in-class, research trainings for the UNM School of Law Students on topics such as Comparative Constitutional Law, Refugee Law, Mexican Law, International Law, Water Law, Indian Law and more. The number of students trained in these specialized sessions totals 739, so without a doubt, each and every student at UNMSOL has received training by one of the Law Library Faculty in at least one of their classes.

The Law Library provided research instruction on New Mexico practice and primary materials to all law students in the clinic as part of clinic orientation and is now included as a component of the clinic orientation instruction. In addition, the Advanced Legal Research seminar was offered each semester during 2003-04.

The Law Library prepared extensive bibliographies for faculty at the Law School, including the bibliography for the U.S.-Mexico Law Institute.

The Law Library published a web page to provide access for the courts and practitioners to the New Mexico Formal Reprimands and Judicial Notices for Professional Responsibility. It is available at <http://www.nmcourts.com/othercourts/disciplinaryproject.pdf>. The collection was co-authored by Ron Wheeler, Barbara Lah and law student, Jeremy Ballew.

COLLECTION

The Law Library was challenged to maintain its current collection during 2003-04. The economic downturn that affected universities and colleges across the country also took its toll on the Law Library budget, which saw a mid-year, downward budget revision. As a result, in the spring of 2004 the librarians were forced to cut dozens of serials subscriptions totaling more than \$86,000. Through careful selection of subscriptions for elimination, however, the integrity of the collection was maintained. As a result of the budget situation, very few new serials or monographic titles were purchased for the collection.

The Law Library continued to participate in the Federal Depository Library Program.

The Law Library participated in the formation of a cooperative collection development and resources sharing initiative call the "Desert States Las Library Consortium," hosting a meeting of the Consortium and attending a spring meeting in Utah. In addition to UNM, members include the law libraries at the University of Arizona, Arizona State, the University of Denver, University of Utah, Brigham Young and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. In the near future the libraries will undertake an automated assessment of their collections and use that data as the basis for cooperative collection development.

The Law Library forged ongoing relationships with other academic library directors across the state by actively participating in NMCAL and NMARL, statewide organizations promoting academic libraries and research academic libraries, respectively. The Law Library began plans for collaborative collection development with these groups as well, to the extent feasible given that the UNM Law Library is the only academic legal research library in the state.

FACILITIES

The Law Library undertook an extensive clean-up effort through out the library, resulting in the opening of two student group study rooms and a quiet study

room seating 18 people. This was in part a general clean up, and in part a clean up of some of the residuals from the installation of the new library elevator in the previous fiscal year.

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

During 2003-04, the Law Library turned over control of library IT responsibilities to the Computer and Technology Services Department (CaTS) and successfully forged a collaborative partnership with CaTS for the on-going upkeep and maintenance of library computer hardware. During 2003-04, CaTS refurbished and reopened a computer lab on the lower floor of the law library.

The Law Library continued to make progress in increasing access to electronic information. The Law Library's research PCs were upgraded and continued to be heavily used by law students, bar members, and the public to search the Internet and the Law Library web subscription titles. The Law Library continued to offer loan of a laptop computer for law students to use on group projects in Law Library study rooms.

The Law Library redesigned its web page with the assistance of an outside consultant, increasing users' access to legal research resources and library polices.

9/27/04