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UNM School of Law Library Annual Report 1998-1999

School of Law Library Director

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LAW LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 1998/99

During 1998/99, 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 which rely on the Law Library, and maintained and modestly expanded the materials available to legal researchers.

LIBRARY STAFF

The Law Library hired six new staff members in 1998/99 to reach a staffing level of 21 permanent staff members and faculty and one temporary staff member. In November 1998, two staff members (Mary Custy and Marie Chavez) resigned from the library. In January 1999, the law library hired Robert Flinkman as a term appointment in the Collection Development Department to provide assistance with increased ordering and receipt of gift materials. Also in January 1999, Robert Mead transferred from his staff position in Access Services to the position of Visiting Reference Librarian. In February and March, the Law Library filled three positions in Access Services: Kenneth Aaron and Curtis Garcia in LIS I positions for processing and circulation and James Bynum as a LIS III for collection management and evening and weekend circulation coverage. The Law Library was able to complete two Law Library Faculty searches in 1998/99, hiring Lisa K. Peters as Associate Librarian for Access Services and M. Faye Hadley as Reference Librarian.

In 1998, processing of the Law Library materials was transferred to the Access Services Department. This transfer of duties allowed the Law Library to use a vacant staff position to provide support in circulation as well as perform processing functions.

The Law Library staff participated widely in training and professional/career development activities. Staff members attended various workshops and conferences including computer training classes, the annual SWALL and AALL meetings, and the annual CALI meeting. Two staff members, Robert Mead and Wendy Pedersen, began studies in the Emporia State MLS program.

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 and also served on the University Computer Use Committee. 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.

SERVICES AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The Law Library continued the increased level of reference service which was implemented in 1997/98. By the Spring of 1998, service points were staffed only with permanent library staff, eliminating the reliance on student workers for desk coverage.

The Law Library is attempting to provide more proactive service to faculty. The services begun during 1998/99 include direct and specific notification to faculty of new books purchased which might be of interest in their research, in addition to the monthly acquisitions list.

The Law Library staff offered a range of training opportunities for Law School faculty and staff and for other groups. The Law Library worked in partnership with the New Mexico Bar to prepare and present a series of CLE programs on legal research in all media, including hands-on training on Internet research. Staff continued to provide 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, including a colloquium held for faculty in April 1998 on the electronic resources available to them on their office and the Faculty Library PCs.

Direct offerings for law students included training on bill tracking for the Legislative and Administrative Process course and training on Indian Law research. In addition, Eileen Cohen taught the Law School's Advanced Legal Research course during the Spring 1999 semester.

The Law Library participated in a judicial research project to provide support to the New Mexico district court judges. The first year of the pilot project provided research assistance to six judges. The program was well-received and was continued for another year at the request of the Office of Court Administration.

COLLECTION

The Law Library continued to maintain the current collection and to add monographic titles during 1998/99. The expenditures for monographic titles was almost twice the amount spent on monographs during the previous year.

The Faculty Library was reconfigured to provide more seating and research space. While New Mexico materials and selected federal statutes and reporters remained in the Faculty Library, the regional reporters and the shelves were removed to create a more open space. To reduce the impact on faculty access to materials, the Law Library purchased two PCs for the Faculty Library to provide access to information through LEXIS, Westlaw, the Internet, and the Law Library's CD-ROM subscriptions.

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Law Library continued to make progress in increasing access to electronic information. The Law Library's research PCs are heavily used by law students, bar members, and the public to search the Internet and the Law Library CD-ROM titles. The Law Library CD-ROM server is accessible via a web interface created and maintained by Bill Jacoby.

The Law Library continued to work on development of a research-oriented web site aimed at New Mexico practitioners. In 1998/99, the web pages which the Law Library had designed and maintained for the Law School on the CIRT server for several years were transferred to the Law School's web server. The Law School's CaTS group assumed responsibility for the web pages designed by Bill Jacoby for groups such as the Natural Resources Journal, the U.S.-Mexico program, and the Guanajuato program. The Law Library retained responsibility for the Law Library web site.

FUTURE PLANS

The Law Library is continuing to develop new training and support services. The Law Library is working with the New Mexico Bar on annual CLE offerings on legal research. With the hiring of two librarians in the spring, the Law Library was able to expand reference hours to 9 pm Monday through Thursday. The Law Library is instituting a training program for library staff on legal materials to enhance the level and quality of service provided. The Law Library is also planning implementation of a faculty liaison program and is exploring expansion of the current document delivery services.

The Law Library will continue to explore applications of technology to research and library services. In 1999/2000, the Law Library will purchase a virtual CD-ROM server to increase speed and reliability of access to the CD-ROM titles and will be adding additional research PCs in the library for patrons. The Law Library is investigating the value of transferring subscriptions from print or CD-ROM to Internet. The Law Library will continue development of a research-oriented web page and is currently working on a Water Resources web page in conjunction with a Law School faculty member. The Law Library will be purchasing laptops for law students to use on group projects in Law Library study rooms.

The Law Library is working with the Utton Transboundary Resources Center on collecting, archiving and providing access to the papers of Al Utton. As part of the Water Resources web page, the Law Library is also offering links to sites which are related to international and transboundary water issues.

To address space issues, the Law Library will be installing compact shelving on the lower floor in 1999/2000. The New Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals records and briefs will be bound to allow removal of the filing cabinets on the lower

floor. The installation of compact shelving and removal of the cabinets will allow rearrangement and shifting of the collection to provide growth space for 3-5 years to meet the shelving demands created by increased monographic purchasing and the normal additions of continuation volumes.

The Law Library looks forward to continued progress in enhancing services and information access to support the mission of the Law School.