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## UNM School of Law Library Annual Report 1999-2000

School of Law Library Director

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## **UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LAW LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 1999/2000**

During 1999/2000, 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 and modestly expanded the materials available to legal researchers.

### **LIBRARY STAFF**

The Law Library staff size fluctuated during 1999/2000. After a brief period of full staffing in the early fall of 1999, three staff members resigned from the Law Library (Ken Aaron, Wendy Peterson, and Curtis Garcia). The Law Library filled the two vacant LIS I staff positions in Access Services with the hiring of Betty Blackburn and John Kemp. The Law Library's bindery assistant position, which was left vacant with Wendy Peterson's resignation in January 2000, was not filled during 1999/2000. Bindery work continued at a slower rate with existing staff. The Law Library continued the employment of the temporary staff person in collection development to provide support in handling a large collection of gift materials and the large number of monographic orders placed by the Law Library during the past year. In January 2000, Robert Mead was hired for a two-year appointment as Visiting Reference Librarian following a nationwide search.

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. 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 Senate Library Committee.

## **SERVICES AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

The Law Library continued the increased level of reference service, providing service until 9 pm Mondays through Thursdays as well as weekends. Service points continue to be 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. In 1999/2000, the Law Library focused upon using technology more creatively in providing services. Notifications to faculty of new books were sent by email. Tom Huesemann worked on developing an interactive web page for the monthly acquisitions list to allow faculty to request books electronically to reduce the amount of paper used by the Law Library.

The Law Library staff offered a range of training opportunities for Law School faculty and staff and for other groups. The Law Library was asked by the New Mexico Bar to present a satellite and taped CLE program on Internet research and ethics. Staff continued to provide training tours and informal classes for paralegal students from TVI and for graduate students from other programs at the University.

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 Fall 1999 semester and Robert Mead and Faye Hadley team taught the course during the Spring 2000 semester. For the first time this year, the Law Library offered a summer session of Advanced Legal Research, which was taught by Robert Mead. This summer course offering was made available to Bar members for CLE credit.

The Law Library continued the judicial research project to provide support to the New Mexico district court judges for a second year. While the project continued to be well-received, the Office of Court Administration was not able to offer funding which would have allowed the program to continue beyond May 2000.

## **COLLECTION**

The Law Library continued to maintain the current collection and to add monographic titles during 1999/2000. The expenditures for monographic titles slightly exceeded the amount spent on monographs in 1998/99. The Law Library also purchased sets of microfiche which complete or fill-in existing collections of materials.

To address space issues, the Law Library purchased compact shelving to provide approximately three to five years of expansion space for the collection. The compact shelving, which was installed in June 2000, will house the superseded state statutes, state session laws and state attorneys general opinions for all states except New Mexico and federal materials such as superseded C.F.R. volumes and previous years of the Federal Register. The Law Library undertook a major project in 1999/2000 to bind the New

Mexico Supreme Court and Court of Appeals records and briefs. This allowed removal of filing cabinets that had housed the briefs and the creation of a new Indian Law Research Area on the lower floor of the Law Library.

## **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 purchased a new virtual CD-ROM server that provides faster access to CD-ROM titles.

The Law Library continued to work on development of a research-oriented web site aimed at New Mexico practitioners, as well as development of web site for water law and related issues. The Law Library offered support to the newly formed Tribal Law Journal by assigning up to twenty hours per month of a reference librarian's time to locating or publishing Internet versions of primary documents cited in articles in the journal and to developing an Indian Law research web site to which the journal will link.

## **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. The Law Library is continuing its efforts at cross-training staff to perform multiple functions. The Law Library is also continuing a training program for library staff on legal materials to enhance the level and quality of service provided. The Law Library is planning to implement 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. The Law Library continues to explore web-based resources as alternatives to print and CD-ROM and is experimenting with various methods for providing access to resources. The Law Library has purchased a printer station with network software that will be installed in Fall 2000. The printer station will allow the Law Library to charge for printing from the Law Library's research PCs using the same Copi-cards as are used in the Law Library's copiers. The Law Library has purchased a laptop computer for law students to use on group projects in Law Library study rooms and will be offering loan of this equipment in 2000/2001

The Law Library will continue its development of a research-oriented web page, including Indian law and water law resources. 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.

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