

8-1-2008

UNM School of Law Library Annual Report 2007-2008

School of Law Library Director

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**University of New Mexico School of Law
Law Library Annual Report
July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008**

Carol A. Parker, Director

During 2007-08, the Law Library continued to support the curricular and research functions of the Law School community and citizens of the State of New Mexico.

ACCREDITATION

The Library prepared a self-study as part of an ABA accreditation process and was visited in November 2007 by a site inspection team comprised of ABA and AALS representatives. The Library fared well in the ABA and AALS reports, aside from the AALS visitor noting our lack of shelf space on the lower level.

PERSONNEL

Faculty

Ongoing searches were wrapped up to fill three vacant library faculty positions. Marcia Baker was hired on August 1st, Ernesto Longa on September 1st, and Theresa Strike on December 1st. All of the new faculty members were appointed to tenure-track positions. Sherri Thomas, who had been with us on a Visiting Librarian appointment, also accepted a tenure-track position on November 15th. At the close of the academic year, all of the Library's faculty positions were filled. The Library faculty created a faculty handbook and revised its orientation procedures. A new Promotion and Tenure policy was adopted by the Library faculty and approved by the Law School Faculty Affairs Committee. All of the Law librarians participated widely in training and professional/career development activities throughout the year.

Staff

Two new part-time staff positions were created to assist with serials in Technical Services, and to assist with circulation in Access Services. Andrea Lujan and Moses Moya were hired as Library Technical Assistants to fill these respective positions. In 2007, Jeanette Hennie completed a career ladder and was promoted to an LIS 2, effective December 1, 2007, in recognition of her increased responsibilities within the Access Services Department. Adam Byrd completed a career ladder and was promoted to an LIS 3, effective November 1, 2007, in recognition of his increased responsibilities for web and electronic services. In May 2008, Carolyn Kelly was promoted to Technical Services Coordinator; she was formally promoted a grade by the University's Human Relations Department, effective June 2008, following a review of her new duties. All of the staff participated widely in training and professional/career development activities throughout the year. A special emphasis was placed on emergency procedures training, and the staff worked diligently to revise our emergency procedures manual.

SERVICE, INSTRUCTION, AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Library was open to the public an average of 90 hours per week. The Library gate counted 117,417 patron visits, which was consistent with the number in recent years. The Library checked out or renewed 11,251 items and loaned 264 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: 695 Law students (21%), 1,604 members of the public (49%), 507 bar members (16%), and 463 other (14%), for a total of 3,269 questions answered at the Reference Desk.

Services provided to Law faculty away from the Reference Desk were separately counted. The Law librarians completed 221 requests for faculty research assistance. Librarian-supervised Law student research assistants assisted the librarians in this work. The Law Library also delivered 877 books and articles to Law faculty during the year. This work was supported in part by the Law Library interlibrary loan (ILL) team, which placed requests for 448 items for Law faculty and students. When added to the 591 other ILL requests received this year, the ILL team processed 1,039 requests.

Law faculty assistance, ILL work, and general reference questions totaled at least 5,406 instances of support provided by the Law librarians and the Library staff in 2007-08, not counting instruction.

The Law Library continued to offer a range of research instruction opportunities for Law School faculty and staff and for other groups. The Law librarians taught two sections of Advanced Legal Research classes in the Law School during 2007-08. The librarians also offered separate classes in International Legal Research, Indian Law Research, and Natural Resources Law research. In addition, the Library director taught Wills and Trusts. The Law librarians 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. In their role as educators, the Law Library faculty provided a total of 136 distinct training sessions in 2007-08, for a total of 1,367 attendees.

The Law librarians held a legal research instruction retreat, which they try to do each summer before school begins. It provided them with a forum to exchange teaching ideas and to discuss ways in which legal research instruction services could be improved. Following a decision reached at the retreat, the librarians submitted a successful proposal to the Curriculum Committee to begin offering one-credit legal research classes, and to make them available to first year students who complete Legal Research, Reasoning, and Writing in the fall semester.

Although the Law Library provides many services for citizens who come to the building to use the collection and databases, the Library also continued its community outreach

program in 2007-08 to increase citizen access to legal information. In providing these services, the Law librarians continued to work together with the Law librarians at the Supreme Court Law Library in Santa Fe, who also have an outreach program, to maximize the effectiveness and impact of both programs. As part of this program, Eileen Cohen provided four training sessions for non-law librarians and community groups in areas outside of Albuquerque and around the state. 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 librarians also continued to participate in the State Bar's Access to Justice Program, which develops standardized forms for pro se patrons to use in the local Metro court system. These forms are available to the public from the Law Library and Court Clerk offices.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND PRINT PRESERVATION

The UNM Law Library continues to house the largest academic legal research collection in the State of New Mexico. In 2007-08, the Law librarians continued their collaborative development of the collection, and the Library staff continued to maintain the collection and make it available to legal researchers. The Library added 4,056 new volumes in print and microform formats to the collection. At the end of the fiscal year, the Library held 431,576 volumes in print and microform formats, placing it in the "large" library category under ABA accreditation standards.

The librarians made plans in 2007-08 to undertake a collection shift in the next academic year. The current treatises will be moved to the upper floor, which will help alleviate the lack of shelf space on the lower floor.

The librarians continued to work with the Desert States Law Library Consortium to 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 addition, the Desert States group started an ambitious initiative to preserve print copies of primary legal materials from the states represented by Desert States: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. In 2007, Consortium members undertook the first step of the project and began to inventory the pre-statehood and primary legal materials from their six states. Ultimately, the Consortium members seek to use this information to establish print repositories of primary legal material, which will allow member libraries to safely lease electronic access to these materials without also having to individually maintain print copies. Such a repository will ameliorate the risk of loss of access to materials associated with relying solely on commercial database vendors for access.

Processing and indexing the Gov. Bruce King Archives was completed at the end of June 2008. The processing was done under a contract with the archivists at UNM's Center for Southwest Research. The collection is now housed in the Law Library, where it can be accessed by researchers.

The faculty Library Committee approved an archives collection policy.

FACILITIES

New chairs for the Law Library were purchased, and the student study rooms received new carpet and furniture. Next year, the University is tentatively scheduled to replace the carpet on the lower level of the Library, as well as install a fire suppression system throughout the Library. The Library is also seeking funds for the installation of more compact shelving on the lower level.

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Law Library continues to be a leader among academic libraries nationally in spending on electronic legal information licenses, making 89 separate licenses available to library patrons in 2007-08. The Library continues to offer many public licenses for legal research databases, which are accessible via eight PCs for public access, as well as provide word processing and Internet access for the public. The Law Library's licensed databases are also listed in the University Libraries' database management system to ensure campus-wide—and in some cases branch library—access to these resources.

The Law Library redid its web page and continues to use it to provide remote access to databases for Law faculty and students. In 2007-08, the Law Library home page had 211,403 hits, which was a 60% increase over the previous year.

The Law librarians also continued to use its Faculty Research Requests Database to manage the faculty research and document delivery work reported in the Services section above. The librarians continue to report that the database is an integral tool in these efforts.

The Law Library continued to promote the use of UNM's institutional repository (DSpace) as a means of preserving electronic scholarly and teaching materials created by the Law faculty. The Law Library and Law School together now have a total of 693 digital items archived in this repository. A growing number of faculty members are archiving their scholarship in the repository. Librarian Ernesto Longa has been instrumental in encouraging faculty to use the repository. The faculty Library Committee also approved a new policy governing Law student use of the repository.

Ernesto Longa is also collaborating with the New Mexico Office of the State Historian to digitize land grant materials. The project aims to make primary and secondary materials relevant to land grant research in New Mexico freely available through the [Office of the State Historian's Digital Project website](#). Items that have been or are in the process of being digitized by the Law Library include: J.J. Bowden, **PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS IN THE SOUTHWEST** (1969; 6 volumes); Matthew Reynolds, **SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAND LAWS: NEW SPAIN AND MEXICO** (1895); transcripts of the records and briefs for all New Mexico land grant cases appealed from the United States Court of Private Land Claims to the United States Supreme Court; and United States House and Senate documents that address private land claims in New Mexico.

LIBRARY FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Director, Carol Parker, published *The Impact of New Technology on Librarianship*, in **THE CHANGING ROLE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANSHIP: LEADING LIBRARIANS ON TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH SKILLS, RESPONDING TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, AND ADAPTING TO CHANGING TRENDS** (Inside the Minds Series) (Aspatore Books: Boston 2008).

Associate Director, Michelle Rigual, published *Teaching a New Dog the Same Old Trick*, in **THE LAW SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S ROLE AS AN EDUCATOR: LEADING LIBRARIANS ON ADAPTING TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES** (Inside the Minds Series) (Aspatore Books: Boston 2008).

Librarian, Sherri Thomas, published *Premeditated Management: The Law Library as a Long-Term Project*, Chapter in **INSIDE THE MINDS: HOW TO MANAGE A LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY**, Aspatore Books (Forthcoming Spring 2008); *I thought it was called "The Big Easy"*, **RIPS NEWSLETTER** (Forthcoming Spring 2008); *Letter From the Chair*, **NATIVE PEOPLES LAW CAUCUS NEWSLETTER**, Summer 2007, at 1; and *Indian Law on State Bar Exams*, **NATIVE PEOPLES LAW CAUCUS NEWSLETTER**, Summer 2007, at 4.

Librarian, Ernesto A. Longa, published *A History of America's First Jim Crow Law School Library and Staff*, **7 CONNECTICUT PUBLIC INTEREST LAW JOURNAL 77** (Fall, 2007).

LAW SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY FACULTY

Director, Carol Parker, served on the Curriculum Committee and chaired the Library and Instructional Technology Committee. Associate Director, Michelle Rigual, served on the Academic Support Committee and chaired a Law Library Search Committee. Librarian, Eileen Cohen, served on the Natural Resources Committee. Librarian, Sherri Thomas, served on the Indian Law Faculty Committee, the Indian Law Certificate Committee, the Library and Instructional Technology Committee, and the Utton Center's Winters Centennial Conference Planning Committee.

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY FACULTY

The Law librarians continued to collaborate with the librarians at the Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center and University Libraries System, and served on various University committees. Library Director, Carol Parker, served as the Law School's representative to the Faculty Senate. She and Librarian, Ernesto Longa, served on the Planning Committee, 6th Annual UNM Scholarly Communications Symposium. Librarian, Sherri Thomas, provided legal research instruction on Indian law topics for special events, as requested by the University Libraries.

OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY FACULTY

Director, Carol Parker, hosted the semi-annual Desert States Law Library Consortium meeting which was held at the UNM Law Library in November 2007. She assumed

responsibility for maintaining the Consortium's website, and redesigned it with the help of Adam Byrd. She also attended the Desert States Law Library Consortium meeting held in Laramie, WY, in May 2008, and the AALS Law Library Directors Workshop in Cleveland in June 2008. Prof. Parker attended the New Mexico State Bar Probate Institute in September 2007, and continued to serve as a board member for the Association of Academic Research Libraries of New Mexico. Carol Parker and Law Librarian, Michelle Rigual, are co-chairing the Local Arrangements Committee for the SWALL 2009 Annual Meeting. In 2007-08, they began the work of bringing this conference to Albuquerque.

Associate Director, Michelle Rigual, attended the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) annual meeting in New Orleans in July 2007, where she coordinated and moderated an educational program entitled "When Nature Strikes." She continued to serve as both Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor of AALL's Research, Instruction, and Patron Services Special Interest Section. Also in July 2007, she provided legal research training for the Institute for Paralegal Education. She attended the semi-annual Desert States Law Library Consortium meeting in Albuquerque in November. In December 2007, Prof. Rigual provided two CLEs on the topic of legal research for New Mexico bar members--one in Santa Fe and one in Albuquerque. She attended the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL) Annual Conference in April 2008 in Galveston, Texas, where she presented an educational session on "The Law of Cruise Ships" and an informational session on the 2009 Annual Meeting. She served SWALL as both Secretary and Public Relations Committee Chair.

Librarian, Eileen Cohen, attended the NMLA Conference in April 2008, where she presented "Finding New Mexico Legal Forms on the Web." She also attended the MALL annual meeting in Fall 2007, and served on the SWALL Programming Committee for its 2008 meeting. She also served on the Desert States Law Library Consortium's Resource Sharing Committee, and the New Mexico AARL Document Delivery and Resource Sharing Committees.

Librarian, Sherri Thomas, attended the AALL Annual Conference in New Orleans, and the Federal Indian Bar Conference in the past year. She served on the Federal Indian Bar's State Bar Exams Committee. She also served on the State Bar of New Mexico's Access to Justice Committee, and served as the Chair of the American Association of Law Libraries' Native Peoples Law Caucus.

Librarian, Ernesto Longa, attended the Digital Preservation Conference in June 2008, and used a UNM Research Allocation Committee (RAC) grant to conduct research at the University of Michigan, May 25-31, and at the Humanities and Social Science Libraries of the New York Public Library, June 15-21, 2008.

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