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Natural Resources Journal & New Mexico Law Review, Annual Reports 2016-2017

Michelle Rigual

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University of New Mexico

UNM Digital Repository

Bluebook citation training was provided to students participating in the journals' write-on competition, a training session on advanced features of Word was provided to a section of Clinic students, a librarian worked with the ABA Law Student Tax Challenge team, and research training sessions were provided for UNM graduate level courses in Land Use Management and the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Though students receive an introduction to legal research in their ELA class during the first year, they are often unsure of their research skills as they undertake employment at this early stage of their legal education. In collaboration with the Office of Student and Career Services, the Library has taken a series of steps to assist rising second-year students in obtaining the legal research skills that will support them in their summer work. The first step was providing guest lectures at the beginning of Externship courses, this effort expanded the following year with the addition of a three-part Summer Research Series, which this year evolved into the [Summer Research Video Series](#). The series is comprised of short videos on legal research topics so that students have access to instruction when they need it rather than having to set aside time during work hours to attend a series of lectures.

The Library upgraded its research guides to better provide assistance to researchers on an as-needed basis and a student page was created on the library website to improve students' access to the guides as well as to research databases and information about the Library. Additionally, the Library negotiated extended access to Westlaw for recent graduates; instead of six months, new graduates now enjoy 18 months of free access.

In Spring 2017 the Experiential Learning Committee, charged with exploring ways to better prepare students for the Clinic, proposed moving Legal Research to the first year where one credit would be taught each semester. This question, and the Committee's other recommendations, will be addressed by the Curriculum Committee and the full Faculty in the upcoming academic year.

B. Student Edited Journals

The Library continued to provide administrative and fiscal support to the student-edited journals in 2016-17.

Natural Resources Journal issues 57.1 and 57.2 were published in winter and summer 2017. Issue one focused on water governance and included a foreword by John Fleck, Director of the UNM Water Resources Program and Professor of Practice in Water Policy and Governance. Matthew Ramirez and Colin McKenzie served as co-Editors-in-Chief and Richard Moore was Managing Editor. There were an additional nine editors and thirteen staff, for a total of 25 students. *NRJ*'s faculty advisor was Clifford Villa, with adjunct faculty Dan Akenhead. This year *NRJ* was added to the JSTOR¹ Sustainability Collection, increasing its readership and scholarly impact.

New Mexico Law Review issues 47.1 and 47.2 were published in winter and summer 2017. Javier B. Garcia was Editor-in-Chief, Mixcoatl Miera-Rosete was Managing Editor, and Eric Orona

¹ JSTOR is a digital database of approximately 2000 academic journals in more than 50 disciplines.

served as the inaugural Online Editor. There were an additional twelve editors and fifteen staff, for a total of 30 students. *NMLR*'s faculty advisor was Robert Desiderio, with adjunct faculty J. Walker Boyd.

NMLR undertook creation of a new website in 2016 using a small amount of funding provided by the Law School Deans. The self-managed site went live in April 2017 and the board anticipates it will include a blog; summaries of recent decisions from the New Mexico Court of Appeals and the New Mexico Supreme Court; and podcast interviews with local attorneys, professors, and students.

The goal of the upgrade was to improve interaction with the legal community. An example of *NMLR*'s scholarly impact was seen in summer 2016, when the scholarly blog: "Sentencing Law and Policy" [featured and discussed](#) Ricardo F. Roybal's student note, "Let's Talk About Sex: Defining 'Sexually Oriented or Sexually Stimulating' Material in Sex Offender Behavioral Contracts," which had been published in issue 46.2.

Both journals updated their author publication agreements to reflect the journals' open-access status. Additionally, the journals now publish new issues in UNM's Digital Repository² and are digitally archived there as well. In the six months from December 2016 to May 2017, *NRJ* had 7700 article downloads from the Digital Repository, *NMLR* had 3454 downloads.

The *United States-Mexico Law Journal*, which ceased operations several years ago, has also been digitally archived and had 1374 downloads in the same six month period.

NRJ and *NMLR* are financially stable despite radical changes in the publishing industry that have led to mass subscription cancellations.³ By the end of 2018, both Ebsco and Hein, the journals' two largest print subscription agents, will no longer manage print subscriptions for open-access journals. However, the switch to a digital printer in 2015-16 decreased printing costs enough that the journals revenues covered their combined operating and events expenses this year and generated a profit of \$7,690.⁴

As in previous years, \$1500 was transferred at the beginning of the fiscal year from the joint operations account of the *NMLR* and *NRJ* to an activities account from which the editors spend at their discretion to support recruitment events. This year they held an Open House, General Information Session, and a Write-On Information Session with a Bluebook introduction provided by a library faculty member. The events attracted approximately 70 students each.

² UNM's Digital Repository is UNM's hosted open access institutional repository.

³ Since 2009-10, subscriptions to *NRJ* have dropped by 68 percent and to *NMLR* by 70 percent. *NRJ* volume 57 had 94 domestic subscribers, 8 foreign, plus 7 gratis patrons (the previous year's volume had 225 domestic subscribers, 38 foreign, 5 gratis). For *NMLR* volume 47 there were 71 domestic subscribers, 3 foreign, plus 5 gratis patrons (the previous year's volume had 92 domestic subscribers, 3 foreign, 3 gratis).

⁴ Sources of revenue are royalties generated by online use plus print subscriptions.

The *NRJ* and *NMLR* boards continue to gain autonomy. Both journals successfully manage their printing process with Sheridan, the new digital printer.⁵ Further, to aid continuity of operations, journals processes were gathered and documented by updating the editors' manual and [journals libguide](#). Information previously stored on OneDrive was moved to a journals-only intranet page hosted by the Law School, ensuring the editors can access it from campus or remotely without additional log-in requirements. Similarly, financial processes were streamlined through FormStack which allows the students to submit purchase and reimbursement requests and supporting documentation that is automatically forwarded to the appropriate law school staff members for processing.

C. Study Spaces

The Library provides students comfortable and well-maintained spaces to engage in quiet study and research as well as group study and other forms of collaborative work.

A few years ago, dozens of bookshelves on the upper floor were shortened or removed and a dedicated Pro Se area was created on the lower floor. The result was that the upper floor became the preferred area for quiet study. Students' enthusiastic response to having a quiet space led to the upper floor being formally designated a Quiet Zone. Conversation in the Quiet Zone is extremely limited and in a low speaking voice, cell phones are placed on silent or vibrate, and headphones are used with electronics. Several pieces of furniture for individual study were purchased to complement this use of the space and a puzzle table has become a popular quiet activity for stress relief. Students now expect quiet on the upper floor, though are forgiving if provided advance notice of noisy events such as class tours or maintenance work.

On the other hand, law students working together are better served by an area where their talking won't bother anyone but that provides a more scholarly atmosphere than is found the Forum. To meet their needs, a portion of the lower floor was designated a Collaborative Zone. The tutor carrels are located in this zone so that tutors have a place to meet with their students. Additionally, new furniture that lends itself to group use, flexibility, and technology was installed. The area's café-style seating and group table with a large monitor for use with mobile devices have been the most popular additions.

Swipe card access was installed on the After Hours door this year. With the new system, students swipe their LoboCard for entry and Library staff members no longer manage a labor-intensive password system.

Finally, the Library has highlighted student scholarship on its new digital sign. The sign was placed in one of the most trafficked areas of the Law School, just outside the Library door and next to the Faculty Scholarship Display Case.

III. LAW FACULTY AND STAFF SUPPORT

⁵ This management includes referring questions to Sheridan support personnel, uploading the completed issues, calculating print numbers based on the subscriber list and staff member count, and distributing print copies to editors and staff upon their arrival.