



## NMSU Library News Release

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### Librarian Changes the Rules

Most people use library books without ever thinking about the behind-the-scenes technical processes that take place before the books ever make it to the shelves. However, cataloging is a necessary and important part of the routine to make library materials available to the reader. A librarian from the New Mexico State University Library recently took part in an international cataloging conference that revised the rules for one of the most difficult and challenging forms of cataloging, that of cataloging rare books.

Dr. Laurence Creider of the Technical Services Department of the NMSU Library was one of only twenty-five invited participants in the conference, Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials, which was held in New Haven, Connecticut in March.

The conference was sponsored by the Yale University Library and Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Other participants in the conference included the head of cataloging at the Folger Shakespeare Library and the head of Rare Books at the National Library of Scotland.

Six working groups discussed topics such as expanding the rules to cover books produced by machine press, transcription of early letter forms and punctuation, and when to create a new cataloging record.

Dr. Creider moderated a working group on proposed additions and changes to the rules and was a member of another group that formulated a statement of principles for rare materials cataloging.

The next step in changing the rules will be the incorporation of the decisions and work of the conference into a draft of the revised rules. A web site on the conference is available at <http://www.library.yale.edu/~mtheroux/DCRM/DCRM.html>. For more information, contact Dr. Creider at 505-646-4707.