



Library Haiku





Compliments of the New Mexico State University Library
December 2003



Library dating
is sexier than beer halls.
You have to whisper.

— Connie Falk

Thomas Jefferson
"I can not live without books"
I said me neither

— Tami H. Luchini



The Two Sides of a Book

One

Dampness: virulent
—fixed on both sides of the page—
black traces of mold.

Two

To read is to scrub
—trying to sponge all meanings—
huskily each phrase.

Three

Exhausted, the page
—aiming for rain, fresher mold—
bears the white season.

— Jesus J. Barquet



book upon a shelf
sitting silent through the night
a restless bookworm

— Eddie Torres

preface

libraries whisper
adore my gentle pages
come quietly in

— Gaea McGahee



bookshelves like forests
whispers of knowledge at hand
a student reading

a book is knowledge
in the hands of a student
a sea of wisdom

— Eddie Torres



dust motes dance in spring
air as book flutters open -
librarian smiles

surviving summer
in a brimming library -
a sanctuary

autumn sun reveals
gateway to dreams and knowledge -
library doorway

— David Lee Summers



Branson Hall can be
Painfully technical thus
I quite prefer Zuhl

I prefer Branson
Zuhl's humanities focus is
far too imprecise

I cannot decide
Both libraries offer
What I want to know

— Christopher A. Weaver



Syllabus in hand,
The cut-throat checks out all books
for Spring semester.

Term papers are due
and the library is closed;
internet download.

Final exam week;
Where's that book I should have read
the first week of class?

— Jamie L. Bronstein



The third floor of Zuhl;
Need: book, study guide, and pen;
A - on my mid-term.

I find haven here,
when wind blows and rain pours down,
Branson's second floor.

Periodicals
Events going on outside;
brief trip for my mind.

— Carson K. Smith

In the Library



Searching for Answers
Pages turn, Questions are asked
Do, not Overdue

Library Etiquette

Patrons love to Talk
When asked to be respectful
Think and Consider

Zuhl Library

Staring through the glass
Surrounded by stacks of books
Much needs to be done

— Linda Skuta



Leaves drift to the ground.
Brisk wind whips through the branches
Of the library.

Warden of knowledge
And guardian of our past.
The librarian.

— Tanya Tavenner



Study in silence
or attend loud football games?
The library wins.

Buying books on-line
is cheap, convenient, easy.
Libraries are free

— Connie Falk



Freed from paper nest
ideas fly to find a mate
within fertile minds

Browsing in hushed stacks
the stillness split by a sneeze
then silence again

Bookworm emerges
from lonely cocoon to light...
librarian smiled

— Anne Keatts



librarians

though some come horn-rim'd
these days most vary greatly
save their love of books

commune

students and sages
between shelves, over pages
fellow travelers

— Gaea McGahee



Outside, stark and bare.
Inside, adventures and truth,
shelves bursting with life.

— Kimberly Miller

Spring is when...
I stay away from the library
at my own peril.

— Ana Luisa Chavez



Stacked piles leaning fore
Thoughts imprisoned intrigue me
Open release dreams

Dewey screwy argh
calculator is no help
beg lady at desk

Library of Congress

Neptune's Statue guards
Marble floors Laws of the Land
Jefferson's vision

— Tami H. Luchini



The haiku included in this publication represent the best entries in the New Mexico State University Library's 2003 library haiku contest. The poets are New Mexico State University faculty, staff, students and members of the community.

The contest winners are:

First place "Library Dating" by Connie Falk

Second place "Thomas Jefferson" by Tami H. Luchini.

Honorable mention:

"The Two Sides of a Book" by Jesus J. Barquet

"Book Upon a Shelf" by Eddie Torres

"Preface" by Gaea McGahee



Compiled by Library
professor Jeanette Smith



New Mexico State University Library