



NMSU Library Newsletter

# Citations

## Desperately Seeking Answers: Which to Choose? Print or Internet?

by Susan Beck, Assistant Professor, New Library Reference, [susabeck@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:susabeck@lib.nmsu.edu)

**The Internet has taken** the world by storm and it is quickly becoming the first choice among many for research. With more and more information resources available electronically, it is easy to assume that the Internet is the world's largest library, a place where you can find answers to just about any question. While it's true that the Internet contains a lot of information, it is also true that it is, quite frankly, a disorganized mess. So, unless you know exactly where to go to find, for example, the definition for the word *cleistogamy* or the latest exchange rate for the Japanese yen, you may waste hours searching for information that is easily and quickly found elsewhere.

This is not to say that the Internet is not a valu-

able tool, nor is this article aimed at dissuading readers from using the Internet. Quite the contrary. The Internet can be an excellent research resource; however, when embarking on any research assignment, make sure you are searching in the right place and using the best tool for the job.

### *Those Old Technologies Still Work*

Suppose you need to find out the date that Easter will fall on in the year 2005. What is your first step? Do you fire up your web browser, jump to a search engine and type "Easter and 2005" in the search box? Or do you go to a web subject directory and search around for any sites that deal with holidays? Given either method, how much time do you think it will take to locate the date? Five minutes? Thirty minutes? An hour? Three hours? Anyone who has (Seeking... continued on page 8)



*John Freyermuth steps up to bat for the Dewey Decimators. Story on page 7.*

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# Dean Townley Looks Forward to Teaching, Research

**Charles T. Townley**, Dean of the University Library, has decided to leave the post he has held for nine years and assume the duties of a professor. The change was effective July 1. Dr. Townley said he made the decision for personal reasons and "a desire to undertake a different set of responsibilities."

Townley is taking sabbatical leave from July through December, and for most of that time he will be a senior Fulbright scholar in Beijing, China, lecturing at Beijing Normal University. In January 2000, he will return to NMSU as a librarian, researcher and teacher, with duties divided between the University Library and the College of Education's Educational Management and Development Department.

"Dean Townley has provided distinguished service to the NMSU Library," Executive Vice President John Owens said. "He has placed special emphasis on informing state decision-makers about the importance of appropriating adequate funding for all university libraries in New Mexico. Ultimately, his efforts will result in stronger libraries in our state."

In nine years as dean, Townley has overseen the building of the New Library and the renovation of the old one, Branson Library. The collection has grown by 25 percent to more than 1 million volumes. Library usage has increased substantially as users take advantage of new, often electronic, resources.

"We have worked to make the Library a more integral part of the University's educational structure," Townley said. "We have implemented a strategic plan that focuses on our users. For example, we are now putting in a new automated library system that will encourage users to access print and electronic resources simultaneously."



*Dean Charles Townley will assume duties of professor.*

Townley was head librarian of the Richard H. Heindel Library of the Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, before joining NMSU in 1990. He has served as an officer in numerous national and international organizations and authored more than 30 scholarly papers and books on academic librarianship. He earned a Ph.D. in Library Science at the University of Michigan in 1983. In 1997 he was named a distinguished alumnus by the University of Oklahoma, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees.

The University has begun the process for a national search for the position of Dean of the Library.



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## Myers Named Interim Dean



*R. David Myers fills top post.*

**R. David Myers** was named Interim Dean of the Library effective July 1, 1999, by Executive Vice President John Owens. Myers has served as the Library's Associate Dean since 1994. Previously the director of the library at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison, he has also worked at the Library of Congress, the Colorado State Library, and the Colorado Legislative Council.

Myers earned a Master of Arts in Librarianship from the University of Denver in 1979 and an M.A. in history from the University of Northern Colorado in 1975. He undertook post-master's study in history at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Myers has organized several Wisconsin State Historical Society conferences. His scholarly interests include modern American and labor history. His publications include several articles in dictionaries, books, and encyclopedias, and editorship of *Toward a History of the New Left: Essays From Within the Movement*.

Vice President Owens has asked the Library faculty and staff to join him in assisting Interim Dean Myers in every possible way as he works in this key interim position.

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## What's Current in Electronic Journals

by Deborah McCarthy, Assistant Professor, Bibliographic Services, [dmmcarth@lib.nmu.edu](mailto:dmmcarth@lib.nmu.edu), and Nancy Turner, Assistant Professor, New Library Reference, [nturner@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:nturner@lib.nmsu.edu)

**The number of** academic journals available online via the Internet has grown at a phenomenal rate in the last few years. More and more publishers have learned the benefits of jumping on the speeding bandwagon of electronic (e-) journals. Particularly in the fields of science, technology and medicine, research can be made available more quickly and cost-effectively when published on the Internet.

In the last year, the Library's electronic journal web site has been accessed over 8,000 times. The popularity of full-text electronic journals among library users is only exceeded by their frustration in trying to navigate the complex and ever-changing network of e-journals.

Just because a journal is online does not mean it is free. Before the electronic journals even get to the user, the Library must first negotiate a complex maze of licensing agreements, access options, and technical requirements. Some publishers will sell us the online version of a journal only if we buy the paper subscription, while others will throw in the online version free if we subscribe to the print.

Some will sell us the online only, but charge us more than the print subscription. As publishers figure out how to balance access for the users and copyright protection for the authors and themselves, we can expect even more changes.

Publishers have a variety of ways of protecting their financial interests and keeping out unsubscribed users, with passwords and IP address authentication the primary methods of control. This means that while electronic journals are readily available from all the Library's computer workstations, access may be more difficult for remote users. Currently, all remote users must use the University's Internet service, Aggie Ac-

(E-journals... continued on page 14)

## Federal Government Documents Cataloging

by Deborah Estrada, Bibliographic Services, [destrada@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:destrada@lib.nmsu.edu)

**The collection of** federal government documents at the NMSU Library comprises around 40% of the Library's total collection of materials. However, less than 10% of the government documents are cataloged on OLE, the online public access catalog.

When the Library's public catalog went online in 1986, the Library staff began a retrospective conversion project to convert the card catalog to online bibliographic records for all materials in the main collection. This project is ongoing and is over 95% complete. But the Library did not (and still doesn't) have the funds to replicate the retrospective conversion process for the federal government documents collection, which dates back to 1907, the year the Library became a selective depository.

In 1993, the Library began purchasing electronic catalog records for recently published federal depository materials from a private vendor called Marcive. Marcive receives a monthly file of selected electronic bibliographic records from the Government Printing Office. Marcive then formats the records according to our contract specifications and forwards the electronic bibliographic records and corresponding catalog cards to us. We then match the catalog cards to the materials and add the record to OLE.

In this way, the Library has been keeping up with the online cataloging of the recently published federal government materials so that all we have received since September 1993 should be in the online catalog (see photo on next page).

What about the remaining materials? The Library has applied for a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) for assistance in funding a retrospective conversion project. If awarded, the funds will

(Documents... continued on page 14)

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# Interlibrary Loan or Document Delivery? Evaluating Your Options

by Cynthia Watkins, Instructor, Access Services, [cwatkins@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:cwatkins@lib.nmsu.edu)

**Do you need** a book, article or technical report that NMSU doesn't own? Fill out the Interlibrary Loan/ Document Delivery request form at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/illdds>, and we will do our best to deliver it as soon as possible, at the lowest cost possible, and as clearly as possible.

When obtaining your request, we use the following methods. One method is interlibrary loan -- borrowing from other libraries. Book loans are best filled through lending agreements with other libraries. Reciprocal borrowing arrangements between libraries result in no- or low-cost book loans and photocopies.

Another method is through document delivery. This refers to the purchase by the Interlibrary Loan unit of non-returnable materials, such as copies of journal articles, from non-library commercial suppliers. In the past few years there has been a large increase in the number of these commercial suppliers. Some reasons for the increase in commercial suppliers are rising serial prices, expanded access to a wider range of bibliographic citations and copyright compliance. Most commercial document suppliers pay copyright royalties on every document they supply. These commercial suppliers pass the copyright fees on to the Library. At NMSU, we have decided that filling at least some of our requests through commercial sources and paying the copyright fee outweighs the more labor-intensive interlibrary loan methods.

When we first receive your request, we check our Library holdings. If the NMSU Library owns the mate-

rial, we deliver it to faculty, doctoral candidates and professional staff. If the NMSU Library does not own the request, all book requests and articles with a publication date of 1994 or older are filled by interlibrary loan. Article requests from 1994 to the present are routed through our document delivery area. We have chosen and are continuously evaluating several commercial document suppliers that can fill the majority of our document requests.

*Where was your request filled?*

## Commercial Document Suppliers/Subject Specialty

**CARL UnCover/** Over 16, 000 multidisciplinary journals are included. The majority of titles go back to 1989.

**CISTI - Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information/** Physical and life sciences, engineering, technology and medicine.

**Linda Hall Library/** Book loans, journal articles, documents, military standards, ASME, ASCE, Aiche, IEEE, AIME standards, technical reports, patents.

**The Genuine Article-Institute for Scientific Information/** Biomedical, chemical and physical science, agriculture, engineering, behavioral science or humanities journal literature.

**Infotrieve/** Primary sources are University of California academic libraries; also utilizes a network of domestic and international sources.



*Left to right: Kate Frederick, Janice Struthers, and Deborah Estrada process government documents.*

## Did You Know?

The Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Service will be sponsoring a display of current research by the NMSU faculty. The display, to be located in the lobby of Branson Library, will highlight research that has taken place in the past year at NMSU. The display will rotate periodically throughout the semester. If you would like to contribute your research to the display, please contact Cynthia Watkins at 646-7676 or [cwatkins@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:cwatkins@lib.nmsu.edu).

## Library Welcomes Five New Staff Members

**Ken Slagle**, the new Head of the Collection Services Department, comes to NMSU from the Brooklyn Campus Library of Long Island University. Both his M.A. in English literature and his M.L.I.S. degrees are from the University of California at Los Angeles. Ken has two cats and a large personal library which includes history, science fiction, and fantasy.

**Jan Hysten** is the new Education Librarian in New Library Reference. She serves as liaison to the College of Education. After 27 years as first a high school teacher and then as a high school librarian, Jan has made a double switch. She has gone not only from high school to college, but from New Hampshire to New Mexico.

**Peg Gronemeyer**, the new Library Specialist I in Collection Services, recently moved to Las Cruces from Florida. She is responsible for checking in government documents, sending serials to the bindery, and claiming missing items. Peg earned a M.S. degree in ecology from the University of Illinois.

**Laura Thode** is the new Humanities Librarian in New Library Reference. Laura earned an M.L.S. degree from the State University of New York at Albany. She has worked as a reference librarian at SUNY Oneonta and as a site interpreter at the the Old Stone Fort Museum at Schoharie, New York. Her interests include hiking, weaving, medieval music, and theater.

**Cristina Guzman** is a new member of the classified staff in Collection Services. Born in Spokane, Washington, she has also lived in San Antonio and Hobbs. Cristina is working towards a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at NMSU, which she plans to complete next May. A former library student worker, she has also been a literacy coordinator for a head start program.

**Gwen Gregory** has been appointed Interim Associate Dean of the Library.

**Tim McKimmie** of Branson Reference and **Gwen Gregory** were both promoted to Associate Professor effective July 1.

**Dale Kiehl's** master's thesis "A Visual Ethnohistory of the Latvian Midsummer Festival" was nominated for the Western Association of Graduate Schools/University Microfilms International Distinguished Master's Thesis Award. Dale, a darkroom specialist in the Archives, received his M.A. in Anthropology from NMSU in 1998.

**Tim McKimmie**, Branson Reference Agriculture Librarian, was elected to serve on the Executive Council of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN). USAIN is a network of individuals and institutions involved with and interested in access to agricultural information.

Archivist **Marah deMeule** has been nominated for the national position of Secretary of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Marah passed the examination to become a member of the Academy last year.

**Myra Brown** of Bibliographic Services was featured in an article entitled "Four Texas Spectrum Scholars Plan Their Future," in *Texas Library Journal* 75 (1): 41-42. See related article on page 7.

**Nancy Turner**, Electronic Resources Coordinator, was appointed by State Librarian Ben Wakashige to be a member of a statewide Electronic Resources Task Force.

**Mark Allan**, Outreach Librarian, has been elected Recording Secretary for the Border Regional Library Association, 1999-2000.



From left to right: Ken Slagle, Jan Hysten, Peg Gronemeyer, Laura Thode, and Cristina Guzman join Library staff.

## Library Sports Beat

- **Cristina Guzman**, Collection Services, won second place in the 8K run in the Las Cruces Independence Day Race.
- The Library was represented at the Burn Lake Triathlon by a team consisting of **Stuart Peale** and **Cristina Guzman** of Collection Services, and **Floyd Ransom** of Systems. In the race's tag-team format, Stuart did a ½ mile swim, Floyd did a 30 mile bike ride, and Cristina finished with a 5.5 mile run. The group had a good race and had a lot of fun.
- **Jean Dickinson** of Collection Services reports on the Library's new softball team, the Dewey Decimators: The sun is setting in all shades of blue, from peacock, to royal, to dark velvet, but the Library's softball team is out on the field, ignoring the splendor, determinedly throwing balls and batting to each other. That's how the Dewey Decimators spend most Thursday evenings, getting ready for their Sunday games in the Las Cruces city softball league. The team, pictured below, began to play this March in NMSU's intramural league and then moved on to the City League in May, with the financial help of people who bought things from our bake sale. The Decimators are composed of librarians, staff, and students from both Branson and New libraries and some friends.

It has been an exciting season so far, with pulled muscles, sprained wrists, lots of bruises and some blood; but unfortunately, without any discernible statistical wins. Everyone's play has improved dramatically and it's fun to watch teammates make unexpectedly beautiful plays. Despite sometimes aggravating losses, the Decimators I retain their enthusiasm and hope to rise from the ashes of their former non-softball-playing selves to victory. The Decimators thank all our fans and supporters for coming to our games and being interested in our progress.



*The Library's boys and girls of summer: Back row from left to right: Deborah Estrada, Jay Dickinson, Stuart Peale, Don Murphy, Kate Frederick, John Freyermuth, Chris Wagon. Front row: Gwen Gregory, Jessica Enriquez, Andres Martinez, Cooky Ortiz, Elvira Castro and Coach, Jean Dickinson. Absent from the picture: Yolanda Chacon-Valle and Don Taylor.*

## Musings of a Spectrum Scholar

by Myra Brown, Bibliographic Services  
[myra@lib,nmsu.edu](mailto:myra@lib,nmsu.edu)

**It began with** a telephone call in late April 1998. "Hi, I am Lillian Lewis of the Spectrum Initiative and it is my pleasure to inform you that you are one of the fifty 1998-1999 Spectrum scholarship recipients." Thus began an incredible journey for me and forty-nine other extraordinarily fortunate people. We are the inaugural class of American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholars. At a time when affirmative action programs nationwide were being dismantled, ALA decided to take money from reserves to create a program designed to increase the numbers of Asian, Native American, Hispanic, and Black librarians in the profession. ALA guaranteed that it would award fifty \$5,000 Spectrum scholarships annually from 1998-2000.

My experience as a Spectrum Scholar has been exhilarating and humbling. ALA has provided more than money to assist us. The Spectrum Initiative has a committed staff in Chicago. In addition, we have mentors, our own listserv, and we receive job announcements, internship opportunities specific to Spectrum scholars, and financial support to attend professional meetings. ALA and Spectrum recently hosted the first Spectrum Leadership Institute in New Orleans. The Institute was a three-day opportunity for all fifty scholars to meet and interact with each other. ALA paid all of our expenses so that we could come to meet, learn, network, and prepare to be successful librarians. ALA hopes to create an endowment which will fund Spectrum scholarships in 2001 and beyond.

(Scholar... continued on page 14)

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## Seeking...

(continued from page 1)

spent more than half an hour searching the Internet to check a fact or look up a seemingly easy-to-find document and come up empty-handed knows that frustration and anger levels increase exponentially as each second ticks by. Is there a better way? You bet there is.

For starters, you could ask for help at the Library's reference desks. If you're at home, you can always phone the reference desks (646-5791 or 646-5792). Or you could consult your own personal reference collection at home. Many households own a copy of the *World Almanac*. This is a typical first stop when looking for brief factual information. Many of us own datebooks or personal organizers like *Day Timers* or *Day Runners*. These frequently contain a section with basic reference information: measurement conversions, area codes, time zones, and perpetual calendars. Why search the web for the definition of a word when two feet away there's a dictionary sitting on your bookshelf?

### *Make the Best of New Technologies, Too*

What about those times when the Library is closed, when the home reference shelf doesn't have the answer, when the only research tool available is the Internet? What then? Actually, the Internet is an excellent place to locate quick facts. The trick is to use it to your best advantage.

Instead of using a search engine, become familiar with subject directories, especially academic subject directories. Here you will most often find carefully chosen and annotated lists of quality web sites. Yahoo! is probably the best known commercial subject directory but it is certainly not always the best choice. Yahoo's editors do not select the web sites they list; instead, they rely on user submissions. Therefore, many of the sites are of uneven value.

There are academic subject directories that cater to the needs of researchers and students. NMSU Library's subject directory is found at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources> and it offers many, many subject pages designed for student and faculty research needs. INFOMINE, located at the University of California-Riverside ([\[www.ucr.edu\]\(http://www.ucr.edu\)\), is designed for academic use and is well maintained. Librarian's Index to the Internet \(<http://www.lii.org>\), annotated and updated weekly by Carol Leita \(Systems Librarian at the Berkeley Public Library\) is an excellent starting point for any web research project. The well-known Internet Public Library \(<http://www.ipl.org>\) is another good place to find authoritative and trustworthy resources.](http://lib-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

It is best to get to know the contents of one or two subject directories. Survey the general categories listed, noting the level and quality of the web pages included. Get to know the strengths and weaknesses of a particular subject directory. Just as everyone knows how a telephone book or a dictionary works, they should also learn how the information sources of the 21st century function.

In addition to general subject directories, plan on getting to know ready reference directories. These contain answers to those quick fact questions, the type of questions that often take hours to answer when using a search engine. See "Sad Stories" on the next page for question examples. The NMSU Library maintains an easy-to-use Reference Desk web page at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/ref.html>. Here you will find phone books for residences, businesses, and toll free numbers. We feature several encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, and statistics sites. Another excellent ready reference web site is My Virtual Reference Desk at <http://www.refdesk.com>. Not only will you find links to area codes, Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, census material, almanacs, maps, holidays, driving distances, stock quotes, etc., but you will also have the option of linking to radio news, newspapers, weather reports, and regular newspaper columns (i.e., Dave Barry, Matt Drudge, Ann Landers, and George Will).

No matter which subject directory or ready reference web site you chose, make sure you are familiar with the contents. Get to know how your subject directory is organized, learn about its purpose and intended audience. Cease depending on web search engines for total web navigation. Explore the territory a bit by becoming familiar with specific web pages and internet resources. Above all, avoid searching in the wrong place.

## Sad Stories

**Remember that old adage,** "to the little boy with a hammer, everything is a nail"? Trying to use one tool to do everything is not only foolhardy, it is also inefficient. Many people waste their time searching the Internet for information easily found in standard reference sources. In a recent electronic discussion on the bibliographic instruction discussion list, librarians shared sad stories of failed internet searches. In each story, library users approached the reference desk as a last resort, after searching in vain for hours and hours.

What follows is a list of their search topics and the print resource where the answer was finally located. When reading over these examples, keep in mind that more than one print or electronic resource will have the answer. The titles listed here comprise the most commonly consulted works for that particular question.

- The number of motorists killed by drunk drivers (*Accident Facts*)
- The Bill of Rights (*World Almanac, World Book Encyclopedia*)
- Height distribution of women in the United States (*Statistical Abstract of the United States*)
- Side effects of a specific pregnancy drug (*Physicians Desk Reference*)
- Identification key for eastern trees (*Field Guide to North American Trees—Eastern Region. Audubon Society*)
- Total number of PhDs earned in the Life Sciences between World War I and World War II (*Historical Statistics of the United States*)
- The number of suicides committed annually in the United States (*Statistical Abstract of the United States*)
- Exact wording of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution (*World Almanac, World Book Encyclopedia*)
- Map of a country or a state (*Atlas of the World, Atlas of the United States*)
- The number of women hunters in the United States (*Statistical Abstract of the United States*)
- The number of millimeters to an inch (*World Almanac*)
- Major oil spills by country (*Environmental Disasters by Davis*)
- The chemical composition of milk (*McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*)
- A definition and description of piatti (*New Grove Dictionary of Music*)
- The capital of Peru (*World Almanac, World Book Encyclopedia*)

**Karen Stabler**, Head of Access Services, and **Cindy Watkins**, Research Support Services Librarian, were awarded \$1,700 by the AMIGOS Fellowship Program. This award will enable them to measure and evaluate the Library's interlibrary loan/document delivery service (ILL/DDS), and compare it to the best operations in the country. Their goal is to become a model ILL/DDS, and to improve service in both borrowing from and lending to other AMIGOS libraries. They will share the results of their research through conference presentations.

**Austin Hoover**, Director of the Rio Grande Historical Collections, has received a grant award of \$5,000 from the Homeland Foundation of New York. The funds will be used for equipment for the Durango Microfilming Project of the Rio Grande Historical Collections. The RGHC has spent the last seven years microfilming the ecclesiastical archives of the Archdiocese of Durango, Mexico. These archives are a unique source of historical information on the development of significant regions of northern Mexico and the southwestern U.S. from 1603 to 1899.

**Jeanette Smith**, Grants and University Relations Officer, has received an award of DM 2.004,00 from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service) for a study visit to Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. She will attend festivities surrounding the 500th anniversary of the birth of Katharina von Bora Luther. Smith's bibliography of works by and about von Bora is included in the catalog of an exhibition of documents and artifacts exhibited at Lutherhalle Wittenberg during 1999.

**Myra Brown** of Bibliographic Services was featured in a recent article, "Four Texas Spectrum Scholars Plan Their Future," in *Texas Library Journal* 75 (1): 41-42. It includes her photo, biography, and some quotes. See story on page 4.

## Recent Publications

**Gwen Gregory** is the author of an article entitled "From Construction to Technology: An Update on Federal Funding," published in *American Libraries* 30 (June/July 1999): 22-23.

**Jeanette Smith** co-authored with Petra Wittig, "Bibliographie zu Katharina von Bora," in *Katharina von Bora Die Lutherin: Aufsätze anlässlich ihres 500. Geburtstages*, edited by Martin Treu, Lutherstadt Wittenberg: Stiftung Luthergedenkstätten in Sachsen-Anhalt, 1999.

### Did You Know?

Tours of the New Library and Branson Library are being given in late August and early September. Please sign up at the reference desks at either building, or contact Irene Shown at 646-4129.

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September 1, 1999

*Dear Friends of the NMSU Library:*

Thank you so much for your generous and sustained support for the Library's programs. Your gifts enable us to fulfill the Library's mission of providing essential and specialized resources to meet the scholarly information needs of the NMSU community and the people of New Mexico.

Recently, the Library received the good news that a \$450,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) was awarded to a partnership of NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences, the University Museum, and the Library for the establishment of the **Southwest and Border Cultures Institute** (SBCI) at NMSU. The award, one of only ten such grants given to U.S. colleges and universities last year, is also one of the largest grants for research in the humanities and social sciences ever received at NMSU.

The Library is delighted to be a part of this important effort. Its collections, programs, and services will blend seamlessly with the humanities research and outreach activities of the SBCI, which will focus on how our region's many and diverse cultures have converged in the border Southwest. No funds will be used for construction. The award includes a \$75,000 endowment for ongoing support of Library collections that support research in humanities disciplines related to our Southwest and border cultures and heritage.

According to the NEH challenge grant rules, the funds must be matched 3 to 1. Your gifts to the Library since December 1, 1997, such as annual memberships in the Library Associates and the Rio Grande Historical Collections, and your contributions to gift book funds, can be counted as part of the match for the SBCI/NEH Endowed Fund for Library Acquisitions, while being used for their original purpose. If you are willing that your donation be counted toward the match for the SBCI, we thank you and no reply is necessary. If you do not feel comfortable with having your gift be a part of the match, please write to me at the address listed on the back of this newsletter. If you wish to support the SBCI with an additional contribution, please do not hesitate to write or to telephone me at 646-1508.

We are truly grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

R. David Myers  
Interim Dean of the Library

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## Library Helps Build Online Archive of New Mexico

The **Rio Grande Historical Collections** (RGHC) of the NMSU Library and three other archives in New Mexico have received \$328,563 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access to implement the Online Archive of New Mexico (OANM). This 18 month project will provide integrated, consistent, and expanded online access to information about the archival collections held by the four major repositories in New Mexico.

In addition to the RGHC, the project partners are the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque, the New Mexico State Archives and Records Center in Santa Fe, and the Fray Angelico Chavez History Library at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. Steve Rollins, Associate Dean of the UNM Library, is the project director.

Taken together, these collections document more than four hundred years of cultural interaction in the Southwest. The Blazer Family Papers (see photo below), held by the RGHC, is an example of the quality of the research material available. New Mexico's archives attract researchers in fields such as the history of the American West and the Mexican borderlands, Latin American studies, Native American and Hispanic American/Chicano studies, the history of art and architecture, archaeology, folk art and folklife, religion, law, economics, environmental history, natural resources management, sociology, political history, public administration, and family history.

A web site, consisting of a union catalog database of finding aids for each collection and links to digital facsimiles of a representative sampling of manuscripts, will be created and hosted on the UNM General Library web server. The site will provide students and researchers a central access point for the location of information in New Mexico's major archival collections. An advisory board consisting of representatives from each institution, the State Librarian of New Mexico, and two historians (to be named) will oversee creation of the database and web site. The OANM will grow as future collections are added to the database.

The project was written by Bonnie Hardwick of the University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Library, with funding from the New Mexico State Library. The OANM is based on procedures and standards developed by the Bancroft Library which have resulted in the NEH American Heritage Virtual Archive Project and the Online Archive of California Project. For more information, contact Austin Hoover, Director of the Rio Grande Historical Collections, at 646-3839.



*This photo of the Blazer Homestead from the Blazer Family Papers is an example of Rio Grande Historical Collections archival material to be included in the Online Archive of New Mexico. Photo courtesy of the Rio Grande Historical Collections.*

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## Recommended Reading: Staff Picks

compiled by Jean Dickinson, Instructor  
Collection Services, [jedickin@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:jedickin@lib.nmsu.edu)

**Many members of the Library staff** contributed reviews of their favorite books for this summer's displays at New Library and Branson Library. Perhaps you can find something of interest here for your fall and winter reading pleasure!

\* Marlo Brown - *"N" is for Noose*. By Sue Grafton. 1998. In the latest in Grafton's hugely successful alphabetic series, Kinsey Millhone looks into a mysterious death in Nota Lake, California, and finds that some situations are better left alone.

\* Mila Smith - *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul*. By Jack Anfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorne, and Marci Shimoff. 1997. This book has 101 stories, as told by mothers, of their daughters' relationships with them -- or by daughters of their mothers. All tell of the sweet relationship between mothers and daughters.

\* Mark Allan - *The Book of Skulls*. By Robert Silverberg. 1972. A novel which consists of the tales of four fairly representative white male college students (the brainy nerd, a rich kid, the boy next door, and a homosexual) in the 1960s. One of the group has unearthed information in the college library about a desert monastery that promises eternal life to those whom it admits as novices.

\* Gwen Gregory - *Almost a Woman*. By Esmeralda Santiago. 1998. Continues the life story which Esmeralda Santiago began in *When I Was Puerto Rican*. After her family's arrival in New York City, Santiago faced the difficult process of assimilation. Santiago attended New York's High School for Performing Arts.

\* Molly Molloy - *The Story of Colors = La Historia de los Colores*. By Subcomandante Marcos. Illustrated by Domitila Dominguez. 1999. Subcomandante Marcos takes a break from his work as a leader of the native peoples in the southern Mexico state of Chiapas to sit under a tree with Old Antonio and listen to the story about how the old black and white world came to have all of its colors.

\* Leilani Horton - *Raising the Stones*. By Sheri Tepper. 1990. A believable reality is brought to life in an alien landscape, Hobbs Land, "a quiet agricultural colony." From the book's cover: "*Raising the Stones* weaves disparate threads to tell a story that builds to an inescapable climax."

\* Jan Hylan - Books by P.G. Wodehouse (1881-1975). The plots of his books are wildly silly (with twisted logic like people disguised as themselves), but, oh what he does to the English language! The best books to start with are the ones involving Bertie Wooster and his manservant, Jeeves.

\* Myra Brown - *Gift From the Sea*. By Anne Morrow Lindbergh. 1955. A lovely, evocative book about life, love, family, solitude, nature, boundaries, and the bounty of the sea. Through Mrs. Lindbergh's observations, you can feel the sea breeze, you can see the shells in the sand as you feel yourself

succumbing to the calm which suffuses this book.

\* Deanna Valdez - *Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul*. By J. Canfield, M.V. Hansen, C. Kline, and M. Becker. 1998. The stories are short and heartwarming and cause a tear or two to form. The sweetest so far involved two canaries who had a baby that died suddenly. The father lovingly took a piece of the nest each day and eventually covered the body.

\* Irene Shown - *Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*. By Anne Fadiman. 1998. Have you ever looked for something to read that you haven't already read a few dozen times, so you settle for your car service manual? Yes, that's one of Anne's confessions. Reading this book is a must for all those who consider themselves a bibliophile!

\* Kathy Sowa - *Spider Eaters: A Memoir*. By Rae Yang. 1997. Personal narrative of the Cultural Revolution in China; the author actually participated in the Cultural Revolution. Shocking and poignant. *Oyster*. By Janette Turner Hospital. 1996. An apocalyptic novel set in Australia (best to read in the winter; apocalyptic here means very hot weather). Story of children lost to a cult.

\* Nancy Turner - *Pueblo People: Ancient Traditions, Modern Lives*. By Marcia Keegan. 1997. Keegan has worked as a photographer in New Mexico for over a quarter of a century, fostering trusting relationships with the Pueblo people. Her privileged access allows a close-up view of the Pueblos without infringing on the strict privacy maintained by the people.

\* Patricia Steeb - *The God of Small Things*. By Arundhati Roy. 1997. *The God of Small Things* is the story of a set of twins, brother and sister, growing up in a dysfunctional family in India in the 1960s. Roy's lyrical style, beautiful imagery, and unusual characters just knocked me out.

\* D.K.E. - *Mad Cowboy. Plain Truth from the Cattle Rancher Who Won't Eat Meat*. By Howard Lyman. 1998. Is our meat supply really safe? Could the U.S. have an epidemic of Mad Cow Disease like England? Written by a rancher turned vegan, this book blows the barn doors off some current, not very well known, and in my opinion, unethical, agribusiness practices.

\* Karen George - *Charming Billy*. By Alice McDermott. 1998. A highly complex story of the life and death of Billy Lynch, an Irish Catholic from the Bronx. The story captures the culture and character of Irish immigrants who arrived in this country in the early 1900s. While the story is sometimes sad, it is nonetheless a gripping piece of fiction.

\* Jeanette Smith - *Liberty Falling*. By Nevada Barr. 1999. This is the latest in the enormously popular series of Anna Pigeon mysteries by U.S. park ranger Nevada Barr. In *Liberty Falling*, set at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Anna uncovers a dastardly plot, solves two murders, and prevents a few more.

\* Cristina Guzman - *The Road Less Traveled*. By M. Scott Peck. 1979. Peck's book discusses life in general, and how we as individuals can take control, and live a much more fulfilled life, if we just realize and accept certain stressors that conglomerate as we progress in life. Peck believes how we handle life issues and dilemmas creates us, and somewhat defines who we are.

\* John Freyermuth - *Child of the Kulaks*. By Alex Saranin. 1997. This is a true story, an autobiographical account of the author's childhood in post-revolutionary Russia, and his eventual escape to China and Australia. The book is full of memories of childhood trials, and adventures amidst the ever-worsening political and economic conditions. *Ocean of Words: Army Stories*. By Ha Jin. 1996. This is a collection of short stories, which won the PEN/Hemingway Award, given annually to the best work of fiction. The stories all take place in the 1970s in various units of the Chinese Army stationed near the Russian-Chinese border.

\* Jean Dickinson - *In Our Convent Days*. By Agnes Repplier. 1900. This is the true story of a small class of eleven-year-old girls who are being taught in a convent in the late 1800s. The convent is run by French nuns, and the girls and their classmates spend a lot of time transgressing on the discipline of their teachers.

\* Gary Mayhood - *Blind Descent*. By Nevada Barr. 1998. Nevada Barr's intrepid park ranger, Anna Pigeon, is literally on, or should I say under, the trail again in this, Barr's sixth novel in this mystery series. Set in New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Anna must face her own fears, and the dangers of an uncharted, recently discovered cave, as well as a cunning killer.

\* Barbara Peale - *Slaves in the Family*. By Edward Ball. 1998. This book is about a descendant of former white slave owners in the South who is searching for the slaves (and possible descendants) of his ancestors. It is the true story of the author's search for his roots and the rest of his extended family.

\* Susan Beck - *Hank the Cowdog*. By John R. Erickson. 1983. What's the head of ranch security to do? A chicken is murdered one night on his watch and Hank the Cowdog sets out to find the culprit. Unfortunately, troublemaker Pete the barn cat has a clean alibi, as does Hank's dim-bulb sidekick, Drover. Follow Hank as one by one he interrogates the suspects.

\* Laura Thode - *The Merlin Trilogy*. By Mary Stewart. 1970, 1973, 1979. For an enthralling foray into Dark Age Britain after the Roman withdrawal, I would highly recommend Mary Stewart's "Merlin Trilogy." The three books are *The Crystal Cave*, *The Hollow Hills*, and *The Last Enchantment*. These books are an intriguing take on the legend of King Arthur.

\* Stuart Peale - *PoMoSexuals: Challenging Assumptions about Gender and Sexuality*. By Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimel. 1997. The truth is that there is no such thing as sexual orientation - gay, lesbian, straight, bi. These are convenient identifying labels, concocted by societal constructs, and don't really reflect a person's essence. Such is the gist of this collection of essays.

\* Mary Chavarria - *Old Turtle*. By Douglas Wood. Illustrated by Cheng-Khee Chee. 1992. From the dust jacket: "Old Turtle is an enchanting fable for children and adults, promotes a deeper understanding of the earth and our relationship with all the beings who inhabit it." *Note: Cheng-Khee Chee, a nationally known watercolorist and member of the American Watercolor Society, recently retired from his position as the Head of Circulation at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, Library.*

## Adventures of a Reader

by Marv Wiburg, Bibliographic Services  
[mwiburg@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:mwiburg@lib.nmsu.edu)

**One of the most vivid** moments of my life as a reader came the day I got caught by my sixth grade teacher reading a *Time Magazine* that I had concealed inside the *Weekly Reader* that our class was supposed to be reading.

I was engrossed in *Time* and out of time. I didn't notice that the teacher had gone into patrol mode, and that she had walked up behind me while I was in the Middle East or Midwest or Broadway, or trying to figure out where Aruba was.

"What do you have there?"

I knew at least detention.

"Nothing."

"You're going to the Principal's Office."

Right down the hall she marched with the offending reading matter in one hand and the arm of the reading offender in the other.

I sat in a chair across this humongous desk from the Principal as my teacher explained my crime, handed the Principal my file, and left the office. I waited as he looked at the papers. This was only my second offense, and I had never been to the Principal's Office before.

"This is your second reading offense this year, isn't it?"

"Yes, I was caught by another teacher as I was sitting reading behind the backstop during lunch around Halloween."

He bit his lip as hard as I think he could, but then he broke into a smile.

"There are only two months left of the school year. Please don't get sent back here for reading."

"Yes, Sir."

After a few moments, during which we both stared silently out the window, I left the Principal's Office to resume my educational opportunities, occasionally reading on the lam.

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## E-journals...

(continued from page 4)

cess, in order to retrieve e-journals from off-campus. Information on how this works is available on the Library's web site at: <http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/offcamp.html>).

Just in time for the Fall Semester, the Library will expand its options for remote access by installing a proxy server for electronic resources. This specialized computer will allow faculty, staff and students to access electronic journals from anywhere in the world using the commercial Internet service provider of their choice.

The Library's electronic journals are listed on its web page at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/scijour.html>. When you want to go directly to a known title, or you just want to browse, this is the most efficient method of access.

The Library also catalogs electronic journals, providing title and subject access through OLE, the online catalog. Electronic journals accessed via the web version of OLE have hyperlinks that allow users to move seamlessly from the catalog record to the e-journal. Individual journal articles can be printed, saved to disk, or emailed.

The benefits of electronic journals are quick and timely availability, increased access for users outside the Library, and cost savings in storage, binding, and preservation. On the downside, permanent access to back files and the costs of computer hardware and maintenance must enter into the Library's purchasing decisions. While electronic journals may be the wave of the future, a strong journal collection contains both print and digital formats. Reference librarians are available to assist patrons in selecting the information resources that best meet their research needs.

## Scholar...

(continued from page 4)

There are responsibilities and pressures which accompany the scholarship. We are expected to succeed in every aspect of our careers. Ms. Lewis, the first Spectrum liaison person, told us last year that "you are the next deans and directors of libraries." ALA has invested a lot in this program. Our future contributions to the profession will be the return on that investment.

I feel very fortunate and very grateful that I was selected to be a Spectrum Scholar. Had I day-dreamed about receiving the scholarship, I could never have imagined the breadth of Spectrum's influence on my life.

## Documents...

(continued from page 4)

allow us to catalog materials back through the year 1985 by purchasing additional Marcive bibliographic records. Otherwise and until then, there is one staff person -- me -- who attempts to manually catalog the older, pre-1994 materials. Priority is mainly determined by the titles that are checked out by students and faculty and other titles identified by the Library reference staff.

The Government Printing Office (GPO) maintains the Catalog of United States Government Publications, an electronic database that lists of all the government documents they have cataloged since mid-1976. It can be accessed through the Internet at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/dpos/adpos400.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/adpos400.html) and also through FirstSearch on the Library's Local Area Network.

As a member of the Federal Depository Library Program, our Library currently selects and receives about 60% of government documents distributed through the program, so not everything found in the GPO catalog can be found in the NMSU Library, but about 60% of it will be here. Our collection is especially strong in agriculture, forest and rangeland management, foreign policy, fish and wildlife, geology, government, labor, aerospace, census, and Congressional materials.

The U.S. Government has quickly adopted new technologies for their publications and much of the print materials are duplicated in electronic formats accessed via the Internet. Following is a short list of web pages that provide additional information about our collection here at NMSU and about federal documents overall.

### Documents Web Pages

- \* **NMSU - Government Documents Collection Policy**  
<http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/govdocs/policy.html>
- \* **Browse Electronic Titles - Agency Index**  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/dpos/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/index.html)
- \* **History of GPO (Government Printing Office)**  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/dpos/macgilvray.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/macgilvray.html)
- \* **Explaining the Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) Classification System**  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/dpos/explain.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/dpos/explain.html)

## From Stereotype to Superhero: Librarians in the Movies

by Jeanette Smith, Professor, Dean's Office, [jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu)

In screenings of the recent film *The Mummy* (1999), Rachel Weisz as Evelyn Carnavon, a budding Egyptologist and special librarian, routinely receives the biggest laugh of the movie and scattered applause with lines that go roughly like this:

"I may not be an explorer or an adventurer, Mr. O'Connell."

"But I am very proud of what I am."

[Pause].

[Triumphantly], "I am a librarian!"

Bright and literate in ancient Egyptian languages, and despite what she says, an accomplished adventurer as well, Miss Carnavon is just the latest in a series of cinematic library protagonists.

Certainly, many movies have portrayed our profession in the traditional unflattering stereotype. One of the most irritating of these, in my opinion, is *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946). Had Jimmy Stewart's character never been born, his wife, Donna Reed, would have crept about as a mousy librarian with glasses and a bun. But for every stereotype, there are many more positive images.

The first of these biblio-heroes in my memory is Bette Davis, who plays a small town public librarian in *Storm Center* (1956). A fierce advocate of intellectual freedom, she weathers a storm of public criticism by refusing to withdraw a controversial book. She was an inspiration and a powerful role model for this former school library cadet.

The most super of the movie librarian superheroes is Jet Li in *Black Mask* (1996), a gentle, mild-mannered Hong Kong librarian who is also the superhuman superhero Black Mask. As he battles the bad guys in an escalating drug war, he uses CD-ROM discs as deadly weapons,

throwing them at the enemy

In *Desk Set* (1957), the reference librarians at a television network, played by Katharine Hepburn, Joan Blondell, Dina Merrill, and Sue Randall, are wonders of accuracy and efficiency. In *Soylent Green* (1973), it is the librarians who drive the plot by telling Edward G. Robinson the unsavory truth about the synthetic food of the year 2022.

*Foul Play* (1978), featuring the adventures of lively librarian Goldie Hawn, always seems to be on the hotel in-room TV during library conventions. And need I even mention Shirley Jones as Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man* (1962)? She dances, she sings, and she makes scandalous books by Balzac and Chaucer available at her library.

Entertaining as they are, movies about librarians pale before the robust adventures that real librarians undertake every day. Real librarians don't often have the opportunity to throw CD-ROMs at the bad guys. But they are explorers, navigating the endless wonders of cyberspace. They are heroes, upholding our professional principles of intellectual freedom. They are champions, preserving the documentation of our civilization from the ravages of time, man, and nature.

Thomas Carlyle said, "The founding of a Library is one of the greatest things we can do with regard to results. It is one of the quietest of things; but there is nothing that I know of at bottom more important." Real librarians and library staff members are not given to flaunting their accomplishments in public. But like Miss Carnavon, they are aware of the significance of what they do, and like her, they take great pride in it.

*Note: Visit "Librarians in the Movies: An Annotated Filmography" by Martin Raish at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/dept/libsci/films/agroup.html>.*

## Library a Strong Force on Campus

by R. David Myers, Interim Dean  
*myers@lib.nmsu.edu*

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to serve as the interim dean of the University Library. During the past five years I have enjoyed as the associate dean, it has been a privilege to work with an outstanding group of colleagues who consistently strive to provide better service to the students, faculty, staff, and administration of New Mexico State University. I look forward to working with everyone in the Library to make those services even better and more responsive, as the search for a new dean progresses.

The Library is moving rapidly to achieve the goals of its strategic plan, which was completed about two years ago. We constantly strive to provide new and more sophisticated services to students and faculty. Through our "Information Literacy" class (L SC 311) we are educating more and more NMSU students in how to make the greatest possible use of all types of research resources. The course has proven so popular that we are now investigating the possibility of developing a class that would reach first and second year students with the purpose of ensuring their success as they move through the educational process.

To support that process, we have taken several important steps. We are constantly searching for ways to make more resources more available within the Library and within faculty offices. Most exciting, and most important, the Library has received generous support from the University administration to replace our outdated online access system. Last year, the Library conducted an intensive search to identify the best system among several vendors. In June, we signed a contract with the Endeavor Company to purchase their online system called Voyager. The migration process to the new system has already begun, and we hope to have it up and running for Spring Semester. This new system will greatly enhance our services.

Another of our most important goals is to provide support for the faculty of NMSU. Every department on campus is assigned a Library liaison to work with the faculty. We can provide support for the classes you teach, work with you to develop responsive collections, instruct you on the use of our databases from your office, and support your research in a variety of fashions. We have improved our document delivery and interlibrary loan services. These web-based services provide faster delivery of materials from journals and books directly to your office.

The strong support of the University administration, combined with an outstanding staff, make the University Library one of the strongest forces on campus. We hope that everyone will use our services and tell us how we can refine current services or develop new ones that will enable us to do an even better job of helping to educate your students and provide support for your research needs.

Best wishes for a very successful and enjoyable academic year.

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Visit the Library's home page at <http://lib.nmsu.edu>. Library hours: 646-4749.  
 New Library Reference: 646-5792, Branson Library Reference: 646-5791.

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Jeanette Smith, Editor  
 University Library, MSC 3475  
 P.O. Box 30006  
 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8006

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