

# CITATIONS



The Newsletter of the New Mexico State University Library

Vol. 13, No. 1 January 1998

## Averting a Library Budget Crisis

by Charles T. Townley, Dean, University Library,  
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With help from the University administration the University Library has been able to keep library acquisitions at 91 percent of 1996-97 levels. Also with the help of University administration, we have been able to restore some hours during the spring semester. However without additional funding, the NMSU Library will reduce purchases of library materials by 25 percent and operations by 12 percent in the 1998-1999 academic year. This reduction will further exacerbate the crisis in the library funding which has evolved over the last 25 years. The crisis is being actively addressed by the students, the faculty, the library, and the university administration. The purpose of this article is to lay out the background to the crisis, explain what is being done, and to make suggestions for additional action.

### What can you do to help address the Library's budget needs?

1. Let your department head, dean, faculty senator, and student leader, know how you use the Library and how important it is for your work.
2. Support the bond issue in the November election.
3. Work with your leaders to resolve needs for permanent funding of library resources and services.
4. Consider giving the library part of the research overhead.
5. Write library materials and services into your research grants.
6. Emphasize library giving in all fund-raising of the University.
7. Partner with the library to improve teaching and learning through more effective use of scholarly information.

The NMSU Library budget has been chronically under-funded for many years. But we have made progress since 1990 when per capita expenditures were at the bottom of the Commission on Higher Education's 17 member peer group of comparable regional universities. In 1996, the library spent \$438 per FTE student, compared with a median expenditure of \$502 for the peer group and \$771 for the University of New Mexico. In 1996, we ranked 13th among the peers with 87 percent of median funding. By way of comparison, 1996 faculty salaries were 91 percent of average salaries in the peer group.

One important area of under funding is personnel. Between 1976 and 1996, library FTE grew 12 percent. During the same period, student FTE grew by 23 percent and faculty FTE by 56 percent. All new library positions were added in 1992 to staff a 50 percent increase in library continued on page 4

## Hispanic American Periodicals Index on the Web

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Joint funding from the Center for Latin American Studies and NMSU Library brings the Hispanic American Periodicals Index (HAPI) to the pool of electronic resources available to NMSU students, faculty and staff. HAPI is a bibliographic index (citations only, not full-text) to information about Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean basin, the United States-Mexico border region, and Hispanics in the United States. HAPI indexes articles, book reviews, documents, original literary works, and other materials appearing in more than 400 scholarly social science and humanities journals published throughout the world from 1970 to the present. It contains approximately 210,000 citations, and 8,000 new references are added each year. It is most useful for research in literature, history, social sciences, business, and economics. On-campus access to HAPI is provided from the NMSU Library Cafe OLE Web page at: <http://lib.nmsu.edu:80/cafeole/index.html>. Contact Molly Molloy (646-6931) or either reference desk.

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## Library Debuts Electronic Reserves

Knowing how busy students are, Circulation staff are trying to save a trip or two to the library by creating and maintaining an electronic reserves homepage. Electronic reserves are full-text documents that can be accessed on the World Wide Web (WWW) using any computer with Internet capabilities. Students can print these documents or download them for future use. Exams and lecture notes are the most popular, since they provide immediate access to files heavily used at test time. Using electronic reserves not only means no more waiting in line, it also means 24-hour access to these files. Files are added throughout the term, and reserves staff try to make them available as soon as the paper files are processed. Using this homepage, students can look up documents, while faculty members can send requests via e-mail and get complete information about reserves. Comments, questions, and suggestions are always welcome. For more information, please contact Sandra Padilla at 646-4441 or [reserves@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:reserves@lib.nmsu.edu).

Visit the NMSU Library Reserves website at: <http://lib.nmsu.edu/circulation/reserves/reserve1.html>

## Science Citation Index via WWW Returns

The library now provides access to Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), 1993 – 1998, to all faculty staff and students at NMSU via the web. During a trial in November and December, the response from faculty was overwhelmingly in favor of the library obtaining this database, which is seen as an essential research tool in the sciences. Being the unique and high-quality resource that it is, SCIE commands a high price that will require the sacrifice of other science-related materials unless other university funds can be obtained.

SCIE is available through the library's Café OLE web page: <http://lib.nmsu.edu>

## Library Begins Work On NEH Project.

By Charles Townley, Dean  
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The Library is working with the College of Arts and Sciences and others on a proposal to improve research and outreach on issues related to the Southwest and the border. Beginning December 1, undesignated funds donated to the library will be used to match the National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant. Library faculty are working closely with faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and interested people in the community to develop a strong proposal. Initial planning calls for the university library to raise approximately \$180,000 as its share of the matching grant. Formal fund raising will begin once the proposal is approved by the NIH.

## More Cancellations For Library Serials?

By Charles Townley, Dean, [ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu)

The Library will be planning another serials and library materials cut during the spring semester of 1998. Unless additional funds are provided, the library will have to return to its permanent materials budget of \$1,885,000. This will cause approximately a 25% cut in materials purchased.

The university library will begin planning this spring for possible reductions, especially in serials subscriptions. Given the size of the cut that will be needed, the collection management review committee will be asked to consider a new paradigm for deselection. This paradigm will be based on the library's strategic plan, which places primary emphasis on instructional materials and current research. It will be necessary to carry out this work before the fall semester in order to pay our bills, which are due in September and October.

The university library will, of course, be seeking additional funding throughout the year, but we think our best prospects today lie in a library bond issue similar to that passed in 1994. We would appreciate your support as we move forward in this area.



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## NAL Taps Agriculture Librarian for French Assignment

Tim McKimmie, NMSU Agriculture Librarian, spent the summer in southern France while on sabbatical. Selected to participate in a Visiting Librarian Program sponsored by the U.S. National Agricultural Library and the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Tim evaluated and organized the literature resources of the European Biological Control Laboratory (EBCL). This work was done in preparation for a consolidation with French and Australian agricultural laboratories also in the Montpellier area. He also created a database of "gray literature" reports that will be available to scientists worldwide over the Internet. In existence since 1919, the EBCL is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) site that studies the use of natural enemies to control insect and weed pests that have been introduced into the United States, often from Europe. Because these pests often have no natural control out of their native habitat, they can cause serious damage, crowding out native range and forest plants and reducing agricultural yields. Tim's experience working with biological control scientists will be useful in his work as agriculture librarian here at NMSU.



Biological control is an alternative to the use of chemicals for controlling pests. It is not only less toxic to the environment but carries the additional advantage that the control can be self-perpetuating. This occurs when the pest and the natural enemy of the pest come into balance. Beetles, for example, can be used to control a New Mexico range weed, leafy spurge, that causes distress or even death of cattle. A recent problem in Mesilla involving a composting operation may have been helped had the operator been able to successfully utilize biological control for flies.

Tim was able to see quite a bit of the countryside of southern France. He thinks that the stereotype of the French disliking Americans and being rude to non-French speakers is untrue. They were eager for discourse and happy to help with learning the language. Tim had taken French only in grade school but "Unbelievably, the language came back. It was stored up there somewhere and I didn't even realize it." Within a month he was able to put down the dictionary and while not fluent, he found conversing fairly easy after three months. Many of the French people he encountered spoke some English and were eager to learn more as well.



"The whole country seemed like an agricultural garden, with lettuces, tomatoes, peaches, grapes, rice, corn, etc. as well as beautiful backyard gardens. Even along the railroad tracks there were gardens to be proud of," says McKimmie. The quality and diversity of vegetables must be seen to be believed. The French take their horticulture seriously, as evidenced by Tim's visit to the Universite du Vin in Suze-la-Rousse. In addition, many of the plants we cultivate in our gardens and landscapes in the U.S. are found growing wild in France.

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### Library Selects Electronic Encyclopedia, by Anne Moore, [annmoore@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:annmoore@lib.nmsu.edu)

The NMSU Library announces the purchase of the online version of *Encyclopedia Americana* and *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*. The *Encyclopedia Americana* is a 25,000,000-word database of text and images. The *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia* was the first to be offered over the Internet and is known for keeping abreast of current topics and its maps and images. *Encyclopedia Americana* is recognized as a solid, academic encyclopedia. The Internet versions of both encyclopedias include material not contained in the print editions. They are updated frequently. The two encyclopedias are currently available to on-campus users from the Library's Cafe Ole web page at: <http://lib.nmsu.edu:80/cafeole/index.html>. Remote access from off-campus will be available in January 1998.

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## **"Budget Crisis" cont'd from page 1**

space in a second facility requiring duplicate services. Despite increasing use of library services, particularly staff intensive electronic and research services, the library lost six positions or half its 1997 increase. This resulted in a 12% percent reduction in access and hours for fall semester. Students now find it difficult or impossible to use the library because there are no librarians to help them. While we are delighted that the administration is helping to restore some hours for the Spring term with one time money, there are no funds to restore reference or other professional assistance.

Another area of need is equipment. The library is aggressively adding very expensive electronic information resources which require computers and networking support if they are to be used effectively. Last year the library spent over \$250,000 on technological equipment. The library's integrated library system is now outdated and must be replaced with a more current design if we are to take advantage of advances in technology and telecommunications for accessing information regardless of its location or medium.

The most noticeable area of chronic under funding is the materials budget. New Mexico adopted a library materials formula in 1988 and partially funded it in 1988 and 1992. There have also been several inflation increases to address an average 10 percent annual increase in the cost of scholarly information. The formula now provides \$37 for a unit of information. This is much less than necessary when the NMSU Library currently spends \$115 for each unit we buy and the 1994 proposed formula indicates a cost of \$161 per unit with 1997 price information. Simply put, the library formula generates only 20-30 percent of the permanent funds needed to maintain our current collection.

One time bond issues and special allocations have provided stop-gap funding for the materials budget in recent years. In 1994, the University Library received \$728,000 in bond money. In 1997, the University provided \$250,000 in one time funds for library materials. Despite a 10.0 percent reduction in the acquisition of science serials in 1996 and a 9.0 percent overall reduction in purchases in 1997, these funds will be exhausted at the end of the year. Without additional funds, the Library will have to reduce its acquisitions by 25.0 percent in 1998. This will make it difficult to operate quality academic programs, engage in competitive research, or provide service to the people of New Mexico.

Students, faculty, librarians and administration are working to avoid a severe cut in the budget in 1998-1999. Student government has made the Library one its highest priorities. Student leaders are considering several alternatives to support the library. Faculty have expressed their views on the library twice in the last two years through memorials in the Faculty Senate. A growing number of faculty are including the library as an active partner in research proposals. The New Mexico Library Association has proposed a library bond issue to be placed on the November ballot. If passed in its current form, this bond issue will provide \$1.2 million to NMSU for library materials and equipment, enough to maintain current spending for two or three years. The University has made libraries one of its four highest priorities for 1998 and along with the student leadership is supporting the bond initiative.

Additional efforts are necessary to help the library assure access to high quality scholarly information at New Mexico State University. Personnel must be restored to assure access to the library's growing resources and technologies. In particular, the library needs support for its popular and growing instructional program which trains people how to effectively use scholarly information in all formats. One time funds must be found for a new integrated library system. Continuing funds are necessary to update library equipment. And perhaps most importantly, the formula for library materials must be updated and increased to provide a reasonable base level of support for library materials in all formats. To the extent that these actions can be accomplished, the University Library will be in a position to avoid a budget crisis and to achieve its mission of meeting the information needs of the NMSU community and the people of New Mexico. With your help we can make the library a more effective learning and research resource.

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## **Government Documents Reference Has Moved**, Karen George, [kg@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:kg@lib.nmsu.edu)

On October 1, 1997, the government documents reference collection was relocated to the first floor reference area in Branson Hall thereby providing longer hours of reference service, now available during evening and weekend hours from a knowledgeable reference staff. Bibliographic instruction continues to be offered, as well as reference by appointment, by the reference department's documents specialist, Karen George. Karen has worked with the collection since 1980. The documents collection continues to be located on 2d floor, west wing, in Branson Hall. Currently collecting over 58 percent of items offered by the Government Printing Office, the collection is available all hours that the library is open. For assistance with your federal documents questions, please contact Karen George at 646-1285.

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## Cataloging the Rio Grande Historical Collections

By Marah deMeule, [marahde@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:marahde@lib.nmsu.edu) and  
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In an effort to increase the accessibility of our unique archival materials, the NMSU Library is now adding records for the Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC) to OLE, our online catalog. The RGHC contains materials relating to the history of New Mexico and the Southwest. It includes photographs, manuscripts, trade catalogs, business records, and personal papers.

These collections are processed and described by RGHC staff who produce a "finding aid", a detailed list of all items in the collection. They then create a computerized record for the collection. Manuscript cataloging is original cataloging. This requires working from the finding aid which describes the collection in detail, and returning to the collection itself to verify specific points of information. RGHC staff is responsible for writing the content of MARC catalog records. This record is forwarded to the Bibliographic Services Department, where Cataloging Specialist Sherry Ward adds it to the OCLC database, used by libraries worldwide to locate information. The record is then added to OLE, our online catalog.

Initiating the cataloging of RGHC materials required decision-making between archival and cataloging staff to establish internal guidelines on content, technical needs, and standard practices. It also involved reviewing existing external standards for the creation of manuscript catalog records. Limitations of the online catalog also had to be considered. Some fields, foreign to archival practice, are required by OLE. For example, manuscript collections do not carry call numbers, but OLE requires that a call number be present in every record created. It was decided that manuscript collections would carry "call numbers" which are actually manuscript collection numbers. These unique numbers are assigned to every collection in the RGHC, preceded by "Ms" as an abbreviation for "Manuscript." By using a unique RGHC number as a call number, archival staff can describe their collections in a manner which uses an existing means of identifying its holdings, and cataloging staff are not required to create and track new numbers.

The benefits of cataloging RGHC collections are obvious: greater intellectual access to these materials for users. There are also direct benefits for the staff involved. For archival staff, direct involvement with the innumerable technical decisions and standards required in cataloging has been a tremendous learning experience. It encourages staff to form headings associated with manuscript materials more precisely from the very beginning: as a collection is acquired and accessioned, proper headings can be established or followed, to be utilized later as the collection is processed and described in finding aids, guides, and catalog records. Cataloging staff have the opportunity to learn about the amazing materials held by the RGHC.

These records are searchable by subject, title, author, and keyword, just like any other records in OLE. They all have call numbers beginning with Ms (short for Manuscript). For example, a call number for a collection might be Ms 142. All RGHC items can also be searched with the added title "Rio Grande Historical Collections". To use these materials, please visit the RGHC in Branson Hall, call (505)646-4727, or email [archives@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:archives@lib.nmsu.edu).

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## Grants Officer Appointed

The library announces the appointment of a Grants/University Relations Officer, Jeanette C. Smith. Professor Smith has been a member of the library faculty for fourteen years. She will work with the library administration to raise consciousness campus-wide for the library's funding needs. Opportunities will be sought for grant funding for internal projects, the inclusion of library resources in proposals initiated by other campus units, and library co-sponsorship of grants. The library looks forward to working with the NMSU community and a better future for the scholarly information needs of the campus. For more information, contact Smith at 646-7492 or e-mail [jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu). The library's Grants Information Home Page may be accessed at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/subject/grants/grants.html>.

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## Tax Service Available on Web

by Anne Moore, [annmoore@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:annmoore@lib.nmsu.edu)  
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The NMSU Library now subscribes to the CCH Tax Research Network via the Internet. This online service contains full-text materials on federal taxation, state taxation, tax analysis, business entity planning, and financial and estate planning. The Federal Tax portion of CCH contains an immense quantity of valuable information including: 1997 tax law developments, several tax reporters, the Internal Revenue Code, cases, rulings, current and proposed regulations, legislative documents and IRS publications. The State Tax section includes all state tax reporters, guides and analyses covering income, sales, and use taxes among other relevant topics. Convenient on-campus access to the CCH Tax Research Network is provided from the NMSU Library Cafe Ole Web page at: <http://lib.nmsu.edu:80/cafeole/index.html>. Assistance with using the CCH Tax Research Network is available at either reference desk or from Sylvia Ortiz or Marlo Brown ([marlo@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:marlo@lib.nmsu.edu)).

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# DOING RESEARCH ON THE WEB: MINING FOR GOLD OR DROSS?

By Susan E. Beck, [susabeck@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:susabeck@lib.nmsu.edu)

The World Wide Web, with its ease of use and widespread accessibility, has opened the door to a multitude of information resources. As the web grows exponentially each day, it is becoming a gigantic international publishing house, cranking out data, treatises, facts, advertising, and opinions on every subject imaginable. Unfortunately, unlike traditional print publications, the web has no information gatekeepers. In fact, editors, fact checkers, publication standards and quality assurance are almost non-existent in cyberspace. Anyone can publish anything on the web. Authoritative, well-researched web sites reside cheek by jowl with those of unknown origin and dubious pedigree. For this reason web users must learn how to evaluate the information they find. The following are some basic evaluation criteria to apply to any web site, be it commercial, educational, or entertainment.

**AUTHORITY** \*Who is the author? \*Is the author qualified? An expert? How can you tell? \*Who sponsors the page? \*Is the sponsor reputable? \*Is there a link to information about the author or the sponsor? \*If the page includes neither an author's name nor indicates a sponsor, is there any other way to determine its origin? **Rationale:** It's often hard to determine authorship because many pages are unsigned. Even if the page is signed, the author's qualifications aren't usually given. Sponsorship is frequently not provided either. A good rule of thumb is to check the header or footer area of the page for links to the sponsor. Another trick is to back up through the URL structure to see if the main page shows sponsorship. For example, from the web page "AIDS Incidence in Women" at <http://www.iapac.org/women/ncwh/106-2.html>, shave off the last part of the URL, ([wmen/ncwh/106-2.html](http://www.iapac.org/women/ncwh/106-2.html)), to find the sponsor ([www.iapac.org](http://www.iapac.org)). A final indicator is to look at the address domain (.edu, .org, .com, .net). This will indicate whether the site is from an institute of higher education, from an organization, from a commercial enterprise or a business, or from a network provider. Once you know the web site's origin, it is easier to determine whether the content is valid.

**ACCURACY** \*Is the information reliable and error-free? \*Is there an editor or someone who verifies the information? \*Are there obvious errors or omissions in the document? \*Does the site provide citations or links to back up its claims? **Rationale:** Because no standards exist to ensure accuracy and because web sites rarely have editors, it is good practice to read the document very closely, looking for errors and oversights. If given, check both the links and the citations the creators have provided to support their findings.

**OBJECTIVITY** \*What is the intended purpose of the information? \*What is the perspective of the publication? \*Does the information show a minimum of bias? \*Is the page designed to sway opinion? \*Is the page an advertisement for a product or a service? **Rationale:** Frequently the goals of the author or the sponsor aren't clearly stated. Also, the web serves as a virtual soapbox. So be on your guard and if you can't immediately determine the legitimacy of the sponsor or the author, treat the page as propaganda.

**COVERAGE** \*Is there any indication that the page is complete or is it still under construction? \*What topics are covered? \*Is there a print equivalent to the page? \*If so, is there any indication whether all or parts of the print original are available on the web? \*What does the page offer that is not found elsewhere? \*What is its intrinsic value? \*How in-depth is the material? **Rationale:** More often than not, topic coverage on the web differs from that found in print sources. Web pages are often not as in-depth as print sources. Keep in mind that some information is more readily accessible on the web than in print format (e.g., government statistics, House and Senate bills, US Supreme Court decisions). However, because no universal web publication standards yet exist, contents statements, which are typically found in print sources, are often absent on the web.

**CURRENCY** \*Is the page dated? \*If so, when was the last update? \*How current are the links? Have some expired or moved? \*Are there any ways to determine how the page and its links are kept current? **Rationale:** Publication or revision dates are not always provided. If a date is provided, it may have various meanings. For example, it may indicate when the material was first written, or when it was first placed on the web, or even when it was last revised. Be aware that not all web pages are kept up to date. For example, a 1994 web page on the latest research on cloning would not include current data on sheep cloning, and thus would be out of date.

**USABILITY & NAVIGATION** \*Does the page take a long time to load? \*Does the page use an easy to understand organizational scheme? \*Are the links clearly visible? \*Are the links intuitive? \*Does the page have software or browser requirements that limit access to critical information? (e.g., sound cards and audio plugins, specific browsers). **Rationale:** Form and content go hand in hand. When a web site is poorly organized or difficult to navigate, it is hard to appreciate the site's content. If the site is frequently down, this may indicate future problems. Why trust a web site that confuses or makes special demands of its users? For good and bad examples, check out "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: or, Why It's a Good Idea to Evaluate Web Resources" at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/staff/susabeck/eval.html>. Two other useful web evaluation are "Evaluating Web Resources" by Jan Alexander and Marsha Tate at <http://www.science.widener.edu/~withers/webeval.htm> and "Thinking Critically about World Wide Web Resources" by Esther Grassian at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/instruct/critical.htm>.

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# STAFF NEWS

**Mark Allan** is the New Outreach and Social Science Reference Librarian in the New Library. He has a Masters Degree in Library Science from the University of North Texas and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona. Mark comes to us from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he served for four years as Criminal Justice Reference Librarian and Coordinator of Electronic Services. He is happy to be back in the southwestern desert (good Mexican food is hard to find in the land of chicken-fried everything)! Personal intellectual pursuits include folklore, mythology, and ancient history. Other activities include movies, fiction reading, and exploring the great outdoors. He is owned by a cat and two dogs.



**Susan Beck** has served as Library Instruction Coordinator at the NMSU Library since February 1997. She has a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois and a Master of Arts in Linguistics from Ohio University, as well as a Certificato della Lingua from the Universita di Stranieri in Perugia, Italy, and a Diplome de Langue from the Universite d'Aix-Marseille III. Before coming to NMSU, she was Reference Librarian at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. She has worked at several other libraries, including those at City University in Bellevue, Washington, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco from 1981 to 1983.

**Anne Moore** joined the NMSU Library as Electronic Resources and Reference Librarian in New Library in September 1997. She is also pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Management and Development at NMSU. She previously worked as Prince William Campus Librarian at George Mason University in Manassas, Virginia, and as Languages and Literature Cataloger at the University of Arizona Libraries in Tucson. Anne enjoys jogging in her spare time. Anne lives in Alamogordo with her husband (an F-117 pilot), three kids, two cats and a hedgehog.



## Muchas Gracias Award For Library Staff

By Charles Townley, [ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu)

The strategic planning process revealed a high regard for library employees throughout the university. One of the library's values is the skills, talents, potential and individuality of library employees. The New Directions committee recommended the development of a Muchas Gracias award for individual library staff. The award will be presented each month by the deans and will consist of a certificate and a coffee mug. We strongly believe this gesture will make the library a better place to work. Money for the award is coming from the Library Associates, a group of individuals who contribute regularly to the university library. Funds raised are used to purchase library materials and to provide that little bit extra that can make a work place more interesting and enjoyable.

## Mexico Small Grant Awarded

Edward Erazo, Education Librarian, and Pedro Jimenez of the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua (UACH) were awarded \$1200 from the Mexico Small Grants Program (MSGP) in supplementary support for a library technician certificate program at UACH. Karen Stabler, Head of Access Services, also received \$300 from the MSGP to continue the NMSU Library's exchange program with librarians at the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez (UACJ).

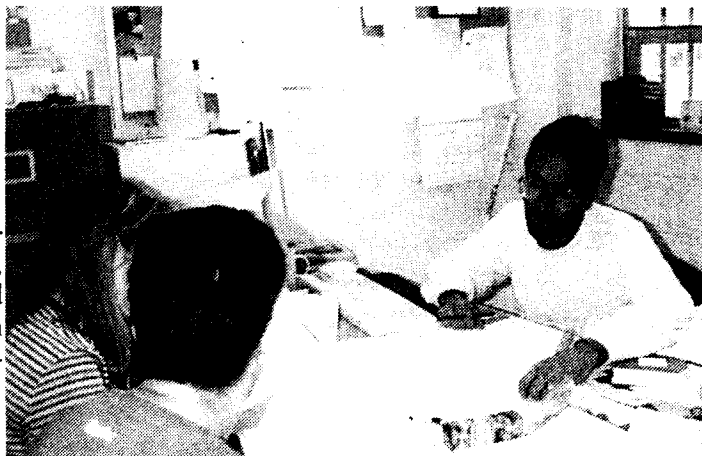
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## Researchers at Work: Dr. Stuart Munson-McGee

by Jeanette Smith [jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu)

Dr. Stuart Munson-McGee, the associate head of the Chemical Engineering Department, enjoys his work. His job is fun, he says, because it is great to watch his students grow and mature. In addition, he is enthusiastic about his research in advanced materials and separation sciences, which has replaced theater as his chief after-hours activity.



Interaction and collaboration are important to Munson-McGee. Since his arrival at NMSU from the University of Delaware in 1991, his materials research in polymers and semiconductors has broadened as a result of his interaction with colleagues. He encourages group study among his students, and they often use the library as a study place. He also frequently sends his students to the library to find new and different information not in their textbooks.

In the last four years Munson-McGee's research interests have shifted to the classic chemical engineering work of separation sciences, separating a mixture into its components by chemical and physical processes. He credits the library with supplying him with the information necessary to making this shift. Successful in obtaining a variety of federal grants and research contracts, including two summers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, he is an advocate of providing the library with a percentage of research overhead to acquire materials vital to the support of current and future research.

While Munson-McGee considers the library's electronic resources such as SciSearch and EI Village essential to remaining competitive in today's research arena, he also recognizes the great value of the library's human resources and services; these include the reference librarians, the Interlibrary Loan staff, and the Pegasus Document Delivery staff. In his words, "It is not possible to over-support a library."

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