Library Welcomes New Dean Elizabeth Titus

On July 24, Dr. Elizabeth A. Titus began service as the new Dean of the Library. Her previous position was as special assistant to the director of the library at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

Dean Titus received her Master of Arts in Library Science degree from the University of Michigan in 1969, a Master of Urban Planning degree from Wayne State University in 1979, and a Ph. D. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University in 1998.

She has worked in libraries in Michigan, Tennessee and Illinois and has experience in many library functions, including archives and special collections, microforms, circulation, interlibrary loan, library instruction, computer search services, reference and information services, and administration.

Dean Titus was a speaker at the June 16 Zuhl Library Naming Celebration where she had the opportunity to visit with many Library supporters from the campus and community.

She interviewed on campus on January 26 through 28. As part of the application process, Dean Titus was asked to comment on the role of academic libraries in the evolution of scholarly communication. According to her, as we enter the new millennium, the rethinking (Dean... continued on page 6)

"Stan," a cast of a 67 million year old Tyrannosaurus Rex, guards the entrance to Zuhl (formerly New) Library. Here, youngsters Heather Mercer (age 11), Yvonne Talamontes (age 10) and Lauren Mercer (age 8) admire Stan and the other fossils, minerals and petrified wood in the Zuhl Geological Collection. Photo, Jeanette Smith.
Zuhl Library Receives Name in Gala Celebration

The Library was the place to be on June 16 when the New Library received a name during the Zuhl Library Naming Celebration, attended by over 325 people. Zuhl Library was named for Herbert and Joan Zuhl of Las Cruces who donated a record $3 million to NMSU as a naming gift. Zuhl Library also showcases the internationally recognized Zuhl Geological Collection of petrified wood, fossils and minerals.

The Zuhl Library Naming Celebration began with a trumpet fanfare in the Library courtyard. The Master of Ceremonies was President William B. Conroy. Herbert Zuhl unveiled the Zuhl Library sign and Joan Zuhl did the honors at the ribbon cutting.

The celebration continued in the Zuhl Library lobby with speeches by President Conroy, Regent James Manatt, Library Dean Elizabeth A. Titus, Head of the Department of Geological Sciences Thomas Giordano, Interim Vice President for Advancement Joe Creed and Mr. Zuhl.

The festivities then moved to the third floor of Zuhl Library where the honorees and guests were treated to a gala reception, including the music of a string quartet and madrigal singers, library tours and refreshments. Enjoy with us some photos commemorating the celebration:

Joan Zuhl cuts the Zuhl Library ribbon.

Herbert Zuhl unveils the Zuhl Library sign.

Photos by Nicole Fuchs, Michael Kiernan and Jeanette Smith. More photos on pages 6 and 7.

Former Interim Library Dean/Associate Dean R. David Myers is now serving NMSU as a member of the Library faculty. David recently represented the Library in an interview for KRWG-TV’s Fall Fundraiser. The exterior and interior of Zuhl Library provided a background for the filmed “breaks” for the public television programming.
New Library System is Operational, Provides Electronic Catalog and Many New Services  
http://libcat.nmsu.edu

by Gwen Gregory, Associate Professor, Bibliographic Services, gggregory@lib.nmsu.edu

The NMSU Library's new integrated library computer system is now operational. The new system, called Voyager, is produced by Endeavor Information Systems, Inc. NMSU’s Voyager system, which includes catalog records for NMSU’s Dona Ana and Alamogordo branch libraries as well as the main campus, is popular with many academic libraries in the United States. Other Voyager libraries include the University of Georgia system, Kansas State University, Texas A & M University and the Library of Congress.

Voyager allows the Library to provide many new electronic services. The Library now has an improved web-based electronic catalog, available at http://libcat.nmsu.edu. Right from the catalog, users are able to see which individual issues of a journal title the Library has received. Electronic journals and other web resources have hotlinks in the catalog so that users can click through to them from the catalog. Many new types of searching are available in the catalog. Users are able to log in and see what they have checked out, as well as to renew items themselves. Library notices can be sent out via email rather than through the U.S. Postal Service. There will be many training sessions available for students, faculty and staff. Information is available at the Branson Library (646-5791) and Zuhl Library (646-5792) reference desks, so stop by or call for more details.

Visit Branson Library or Zuhl Library for a demonstration of the new Voyager electronic catalog. The staff at both reference desks will be happy to help you. You can also view the catalog at http://libcat.nmsu.edu. The Library has developed special online help screens for our users. We would love to hear your comments - please email them to voyopac@lib.nmsu.edu.

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Top 10 Reasons for Switching to Voyager

by Holly Reynolds, Access Services  
hreynold@lib.nmsu.edu

10. Updated web environment
9. Searching is wa-a-a-a-y faster
8. Direct link to electronic reserves
7. Email search results to yourself
6. Place recalls directly from the catalog
5. Renew your books instantly
4. Get email notices from Circulation
3. Hotlinks to cool sites
2. You can see what books you have checked out

and the number one reason for switching to Voyager:

1. ALL the information is in ONE system!
Genevieve Bauer of Bibliographic Services recently completed twenty years of service with the Library.

Myra Brown of Bibliographic Services received a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Texas in August. She attended library school at the University of Texas El Paso campus with the help of a Spectrum scholarship awarded by the American Library Association. Myra begins a two year internship at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, in September.

Karen George of Branson Reference received a master’s degree in history from NMSU in Spring Semester 2000 (see related story on page 5).

Gwen Gregory of Bibliographic Services has been granted tenure. Gwen is one of four academic librarians selected by the New Mexico State Library to attend its Library Leadership Institute. The week-long institute brings together academic, public, school, and special librarians throughout the state.

Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, a former student employee in the Library’s Catalog Department during the 1980s and member of the Navajo Nation, was recently named President of Dine’ College in Tsaille, Arizona. She is the 32-year-old institution’s first female president.

Molly Molloy of the Southwest/Border Research Center was promoted to Associate Professor.

Cynthia Watkins of Access Services was promoted to Assistant Professor.

Cheryl Wilson, Special Collections Librarian, has been elected Vice Chair of NMSU’s Faculty Senate.

Library Welcomes New Staff Members

Jennifer Alexander began her employment at the Library as a temporary hire and then became the Administrative Secretary II in the Administrative Office. She has a nine-year-old daughter, Saige. Jennifer enjoys the outdoors, especially the mountains, and hopes to continue her education at NMSU.

Beverly Barela of Collection Services is responsible for receiving monographs. Beverly received a B.A. in psychology in May and plans on continuing her education.

Donna Burkholder is a Library Technician II in the Branson Circulation unit of Access Services. She has eight years of experience working in public libraries in Ohio and Oregon, and is currently enrolled in the Library Technology program at the Dona Ana Branch Community College (DABCC). Two of Donna’s three children are college graduates and one is in high school. Her husband Earl is on the NMSU faculty.

Monica Kirby is the Social Sciences/Outreach Librarian in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department (HSS). She and her daughter Laura moved here from Madison, Wisconsin, where Monica recently received her master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin’s School of Library and Information Studies. Monica also has a master’s degree in Social Work and has taught in Newfoundland. Monica directed a day care center in Minnesota and worked as a social worker in Madison. After 9 years in Newfoundland, 8 years in Minnesota and 12 years in Wisconsin, Monica decided she had shoveled enough snow for one lifetime.

Jenny Lockwood of Collection Services is responsible for checking in and claiming journals. She received a B.F.A. degree from NMSU and is currently enrolled in the Library Technology program at DABCC. Previous to her Library employment Jenny worked at Tresco Printing Services, which provides job training and life skills support for developmentally disabled adults.

Linda Sandoval is employed in Branson Reference as the coordinator for the Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!) project. A part-time temporary employee, Linda works closely with BIEN!’s seventeen partners to provide access to health information to residents of Dona Ana, Luna and Otero counties.

Amy Tavidian, the new Instruction Coordinator, joined HSS July. Amy moved here from Hammond, Louisiana where she taught freshman composition and American literature at Southeastern Louisiana University. She received her master’s degree in Library and Information Sciences from the Louisiana State University and also has a Master of Arts in rhetoric and composition. Amy is an active swimmer, hiker, bicyclist and plays the fiddle.
Intemship in Public History an Exciting, Rewarding Experience

by Karen George, Branson Reference, kg@lib.nmsu.edu

The Spring 2000 Semester brought a happy conclusion to my educational goals as I completed my master’s degree in history. My degree in Public History required the completion of an internship. The internship I chose was working at the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)’s library. With the approval of the Public History program director, Dr. Jon Hunner, I put my library skills to work. I have been working at New Mexico State University Library for over 20 years and thanks to many great teachers at the library, I learned quite a bit along the way. The EBID’s library, located at 530 South Melendres Street in Las Cruces, is a specialized collection of materials on water subjects generated mostly by federal and state organizations. This was an exciting task as I set about tearing the library’s collection apart and putting it back together. I integrated all of the new materials which had arrived during the past years and made shelf list cards for all the new pieces. In addition, I rearranged all of the original materials by the agency responsible for the publication. The last librarian to work with the collection was there in 1984 so there was a great deal of work to be done. The EBID collection is a very nice collection, containing many unique primary resources, including original letters from board members and others, annual reports, and maps. The purpose of the collection is to serve the EBID staff and their legal representatives.

All in all I dedicated 135 hours of unpaid time to the collection. Once that was completed, I extended my stay to input all of the catalog cards into a computer accessible database. With the expertise of Herb Bethel, the EBID computer guru, the staff may now search the collection from their office computers. My goals for this project were met and this helped me meet the requirements for my degree. I am especially grateful to the EBID staff for making this internship possible and to the Branson Reference Library Staff for their schedule flexibility.

Research Now Easier

by Karen George, Branson Reference
kg@lib.nmsu.edu

Government information research is now easier with the introduction of two new electronic databases. Located on the web at http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/doblexis.html, these two additions to the Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe will provide access to congressional information and government periodical references.

CIS Government Periodicals Universe covers articles in approximately 170 current federal periodical publications. Retrospective coverage is from 1988 to over 70 additional federal periodical publications. Updated quarterly, this service provides bibliographic information to a broad range of federal periodical literature.

Congressional Universe offers access to a variety of information by and about the United States Congress. With Congressional Universe, you can:
• Search an index of congressional publications from 1970 to the present
• Retrieve CIS Legislative Histories for public laws going back to 1970
• Find testimony from congressional hearings
• Track bills as they move through the House and Senate

Stay in Touch with E-LINE

by Nancy Turner, Assistant Professor
Zuhl Library Reference, ntturner@lib.nmsu.edu

The NMSU Library has instituted a new service to keep faculty, students, and staff up-to-date on new electronic resources and services available to them as part of the University community. E-LINE is a bi-weekly alert, delivered via email, that informs subscribers of new electronic journals, trials, article databases, Internet resources and library-conducted workshops.

To subscribe, visit the E-LINE web site at http://lib.nmsu.edu/news/eline/. Complete the short online form, making sure you include a complete email address. The archives of past issues can also be searched and viewed from this page.

For further information, please feel free to contact Nancy Turner, Electronic Resources Coordinator, at ntturner@lib.nmsu.edu or 646-6930.

• Search the Congressional Record
• Locate information about members and committees
• Search the National Journal

For more information or instruction call Karen George at 646-1285 or email kg@lib.nmsu.edu
of scholarly communication is already in progress. This “rethinking” has to a great extent been triggered by the rapid advancements pertaining to scholarly information. However, these roles were basically defined and established in the context of scholarly communication that was primarily “hard copy” based.

As scholarly communication moves more towards being “electronically based,” the need for academic libraries to redefine their roles as pertains to scholarly communication becomes essential. Elements of this redefinition include increasing access to electronic and specialized and research level collections, preserving and protecting collections in hard copy and electronic formats, continuing strong advocacy for intellectual freedom, and teaching critical thinking and library research skills. Clearly, academic libraries have significant roles to play and contributions to make as the evolution of scholarly communication progresses. What is most exciting is that it will be done in partnership with scholars, publishers, institutions, and others.

Contact Dean Titus at 646-1508 or email her at etitus@lib.nmsu.edu.
Zuhl Library Naming Celebration

was had by all!

Photos by Nicole Fuchs, Michael Kiernan and Jeanette Smith.
A Gift to the Library is a Gift to the University

• The entire Las Cruces and Dona Ana County area benefits from having a research library of the caliber of the NMSU Library. Perhaps you or your children have borrowed books or used journals from our general collection, accessed the world of electronic information from our home page, had a question answered by a reference librarian, used our special and unique research collections or attended one of our instructional sessions or special presentations.

• As a center for lifelong learning, we endeavor to provide the highest quality information and instruction to our community. You deserve nothing less. As major changes occur in how information is accessed, we play an important role in bridging the gap between technology and users. Our services add value to information by helping you find exactly what you need when you need it.

• However, the cost of providing this excellence in services and resources is rising, and costs greatly exceed allocations. Private support is necessary for preserving and enhancing the quality of the Library. Now, more than ever, we need your generous assistance. No gift is too small. We hope that you will be among our loyal Library supporters and friends this year and in the future. Thank you for your support!

Please photocopy or cut out this form and mail with your gift!

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip code:
Phone:

Yes, I want to help build the NMSU Library!
Enclosed is my check for:

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I want my gift to benefit:

| 89013 Southwest and Border Cultures Institute |
| 69002 Gift Books |
| 69000 Library Associates ($50/year) |
| 69473 Zuhl Geological Collection |
| 69005 Rio Grande Historical Collections |
| Other (please specify) |

Please make your check payable to the NMSU Foundation and mail to: Dr. Elizabeth A. Titus, Dean of the Library, NMSU Library, P.O. 30006, MSC 3475, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006. Thank you!


Recent Publications

Library First in New Mexico to Join Trans-Amigos Express

by Cynthia Watkins, Assistant Professor
Access Services, cwatkins@lib.nmsu.edu

The Library recently joined Trans-Amigos Express, a courier program for delivering Interlibrary Loan and other library materials to participating Amigos libraries. This new program will lower costs and improve service to users because most books are delivered within one or two work days. Currently 135 major universities, major cities, and most medium-sized and small cities in Texas and Oklahoma participate in Trans-Amigos Express, and the Library is the first library in New Mexico to join.

Trans-Amigos Express is a service of Amigos Library Services, Inc., of Dallas, the regional agency that provides shared catalog records through OCLC to over 650 libraries and cultural institutions in the southwestern U.S. OCLC enables Interlibrary Loan offices to know which libraries own requested materials. The mission of Amigos is to provide innovative information services, promote regional cooperation and resource sharing, and support libraries as leaders in education and information services.

For more information, please contact Karen Stabler, the Head of Access Services, at 646-6172.
The Library was recently awarded $97,755 by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)/United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) to preserve publications documenting the history of New Mexico agriculture and rural history. The project is a collaborative effort with nine other libraries in land grant institutions, led by the Albert Mann Library at Cornell University.

According to agriculture librarian and local project director Tim McKimmie of Branson Reference, the NMSU Library, in cooperation with other libraries in the state, will develop a comprehensive bibliography of published materials critical to the story of agriculture and rural life in New Mexico published from 1820 to 1945 and preserve the most important of these materials.

The project is intended to advance the goals of the USAIN’s National Preservation Program for Agricultural literature and the national preservation program administered by the NEH to preserve the intellectual content of deteriorating research resources.

The project will employ a four-person scholarly review panel to rank titles according to their priority as research resources and will target for preservation the most important 30% of approximately 5,000 volumes.

Once the ranking has been compiled, the Library will organize preservation microfilming activities consistent with national standards. When filming and quality checking are completed, catalog records for each item will be entered in the international online catalog, OCLC. Microfilm masters will be housed at the National Agricultural Library and a duplicate master and one circulating copy of each publication will be made available to Library users.

McKimmie states that the materials to be identified and preserved include books, government documents, extension publications, newspapers, farming journals and theses and dissertations. These materials include information on New Mexico’s crops, such as chile, alfalfa, cotton, pecans and grain crops, as well as the cattle, sheep and dairy industries. Since the history of New Mexico’s agriculture is also the story of scarce water resources, sources of information on acequias (small irrigation ditches) and dam construction are also included.

The literature of agriculture and rural life in New Mexico ranges from reminiscences of times gone by to ranching and rodeos, struggles between the poor and land barons, changes wrought by railroads and dam building, and the effect of disasters such as the dust bowl. Many of the books to be reviewed during the project deal with rural life in the West. My Life on the Frontier by Miguel Antonio Otero, Blackboard Days by Sophie Poe and No Life for A Lady by Agnes Morley Cleaveland are examples of this type of literature.

For more information, contact Tim McKimmie at 646-7483 or tmckimmi@lib.nmsu.edu.
Batgirl...
(continued from page 11)
ics, 1980) Felix Faust tries his hand at being a librarian, only to get possessed by the spirit of an evil sorcerer whose essence had been transferred to a book in his castle.


Archie and Veronica (the comic book characters, not the databases) get into the library act as well. In “Literacy Southern Style” by Ronnie Wise and April Stewart, in Archie and His Friends Help Raise Literacy Awareness in Mississippi (Mamaroneck, N.Y.: Archie Comic Publications, 1994), Veronica takes her friends to Mississippi to learn about what they can do to help people improve their literacy. Among the sites they visit is a depot, which “has been transformed into a division of the local library system” and is the headquarters of the local literacy council.

I don’t know whether Katy Keene was ever depicted as a librarian. But if she was, she was certain to have been a very stylish one.

I will close by mentioning a library whodunnit, “The Library of Souls” by Peter Milligan, in Detective Comics #643 (N.Y.: DC Comics, 1992). A renegade librarian starts killing people and classifies the bodies according to the Dewey Decimal Classification. According to Steven Bergson, Batman solves the murders with the assistance of a librarian.

“Hmm,” Bergson muses, “why didn’t he just go to Batgirl?”

Comics Scholarship Annotated Bibliographies, http://www.sp.uconn.edu/~epk93002/ComicsScholarship/main.html

Library Offers Free HTML Classes
In April, the NMSU Library offered a three-session class entitled “HTML for the Complete Beginner.” The class, offered through the Center for Educational Development, was taught by Assistant Professor Marlo Brown of Branson Library Reference. Participants spent a total of four and a half hours over three days creating web pages, including work on graphics, making links and troubleshooting. The emphasis of the hands-on course was on gaining an understanding of how HyperText Markup Language (HTML) works.

The class was such a success that it was offered again in June and in July, and plans are being made to offer HTML classes to the NMSU campus community during the Fall 2000 semester. The classes will again be taught by Marlo Brown. To sign up, contact:

The Center for Educational Development
Milton Hall, Room 50
Campus Box MSC 3C ED
Phone: 646-2204

Although many web authoring tools exist, such as FrontPage, PageMill and others, a command of the basics of HTML allows a web author to better understand what is going on. This is especially helpful when the authoring software doesn’t do exactly what you want it to or when you wish to make a small change to an existing web page. A simple page can be created with HTML in surprisingly little time. Marlo plans to continue offering HTML classes as long as there is sufficient demand on campus.

Chingder Yeh of Computing and Networking (foreground) takes notes while Elatunbi Adeogba and Pat McConnell, both from the College of Education, work on their web pages. Photo, Marlo Brown.
Did you know that Batgirl was a librarian? Few people do.

The Batgirl On-Line web page tells us that under her original name, Barbara Gordon, Batgirl graduated summa cum laude from Gotham State University with a degree in Library and Information Systems, and that she went on to become the head librarian at Gotham Public Library.

In Librarians in Comics: Sources Steven Bergson has compiled a list of sources about members of our profession who appear in comic books. His annotations serve as a guided tour of the mild-mannered (or not) librarians who search for information during the day, and in their alter egos as superheroes, search for more information at night.

According to Bergson, after the Joker shot Batgirl, “She took a less active role. Now she provides what we’d call free reference services (usually in-depth and difficult stuff) to some superheroes under the name Oracle.”

We learn more about Oracle, formerly Batgirl, in Scott Peterson’s “A Little Knowledge” Showcase 94 #12, December 1994 (N.Y.: DC Comics). In this comic book, Oracle defends herself from vengeful stalkers. We find that after her serious spine injury inflicted by the Joker, she learns to work with what she has — access to the Internet.

Oracle says, “From my days as Gotham’s head librarian I knew how to find out whatever I needed. If I could do that for citizens, I could do it for colleges, non-profit corporations, private investigators and superheroes. Having been blessed with photographic recall, I studied a dozen newspapers, four dozen magazines and... the computer bulletin boards... Nowadays I can do so much more as Oracle than I ever could do as Batgirl. There’s nothing I can’t find out. No problem I can’t solve.”

Some superheroes skip the middleman and find their own information, with superhuman speed, of course. In “The Girl Who Didn’t Believe in Superman” (Superman and Batman Annual (London, 1974), Superman discovers with his X-ray vision that a girl’s blindness is caused by a piece of glass embedded behind her optic nerve. Because he is licensed to practice medicine he decides to operate. But first he goes to the hospital’s medical library where he learns “everything about eye operations” in a few minutes.

It is relatively easy to come up with a job description for a super-librarian -- actually any librarian:

• Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from an American Library Association-accredited program
• Faster than a speeding bullet
• More powerful than a locomotive
• Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound
• Creative problem solving skills (know how to handle vengeful stalkers)
• Some weekend and/or evening hours required

Don’t think that just anyone can become a super-librarian. In “Reprise” by Gerry Conway in Justice League of America #182 (N.Y.: DC Comics) (Batgirl... continued on page 10)
Welcome Students!

Our Library Catalog Has a New Look

Check It Out At

http://libcat.nmsu.edu