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

— Connie Falk

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

— Tami H. Luchini
The Two Sides of a Book

1ne
Dampness: virulent
—fixed on both sides of the page—
black traces of mold.

2wo
To read is to scrub
—trying to sponge all meanings—
huskily each phrase.

3ree
Exhausted, the page
—aiming for rain, fresher mold—
bears the white season.

— Jesus J. Barquet
book upon a shelf
sitting silent through the night
a restless bookworm

— Eddie Torres

preface

libraries whisper
adore my gentle pages
come quietly in

— Gaea McGahee
bookshelves like forests
whispers of knowledge at hand
a student reading

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

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

surviving summer
in a brimming library -
a sanctuary

autumn sun reveals
gateway to dreams and knowledge -
library doorway

— David Lee Summers
Branson Hall can be
Painfully technical thus
I quite prefer Zuhl

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

I cannot decide
Both libraries offer
What I want to know

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Carson K. Smith
In the Library

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

Library Etiquette

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

Zuhl Library

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Anne Keatts
librarians

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

commune

students and sages
between shelves, over pages
fellow travelers

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

— Kimberly Miller

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

— Ana Luisa Chavez
Stacked piles leaning fore
Thoughts imprisoned intrigue me
Open release dreams

Dewey screwy argh
calculator is no help
beg lady at desk

Library of Congress
Neptune’s Statue guards
Marble floors Laws of the Land
Jefferson’s vision

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

The contest winners are:
First place “Library Dating” by Connie Falk
Second place “Thomas Jefferson” by Tami H. Luchini.
Honorable mention:
“The Two Sides of a Book” by Jesus J. Barquet
“Book Upon a Shelf” by Eddie Torres
“Preface” by Gaea McGahee