

University Libraries Update

Fall Semester 2006

Welcome to UNM for the Fall 2006 Semester! There are several new developments to tell you about regarding the University Libraries (UL). Effective June 30th, 2006, Camila Aire, retired as Dean of the University Libraries. Provost Dasenbrock has appointed Fran Wilkinson as Interim Dean until a search committee can be formed and a new dean selected.

As you may already be aware, on April 30th, 2006, Zimmerman Library experienced a fire in the basement centered primarily in the journals collection. As a result:

- Over the course of the summer Zimmerman Library was re-opened for limited hours. Currently, all floors are open to the public except for the fire-damaged area on the first floor and all of the basement levels. Zimmerman will be open normal hours (see <http://elibrary.unm.edu>) beginning with the start of the fall semester.
- All surviving journals, as well as all microform and newspaper collections in the humanities, education and social sciences were sent out of state for remediation and evaluation.
- These collections will not be returned to the UL until the basement has been reconstructed and renovated, and that project will not be completed before the spring of 2007 at the earliest.
- The list of journals lost in the fire has been posted on our public website at <http://elibrary.unm.edu/firejrnl.php>. The UNM community is being invited to give us feedback about which titles will be replaced and in what format.
- Paper journals and newspapers received since the fire are currently shelved in the West Wing.
- To provide access to some collections unavailable due to the fire, we have expanded our virtual offerings, including our electronic journal collections, and added digital collections. For a complete alphabetical list of electronic offerings visit: <http://elibrary.unm.edu/articles/databasesindexes.php>.
- The UL's Interlibrary Loan services have joined several new consortia in order to provide faster access and improved delivery of materials. Most requests for articles are now filled within 24 hours with electronic article delivery to your desktop.
- More information about library services can be found on the UL web pages at <http://elibrary.unm.edu>.

Parts of the first floor located above the fire were also damaged. As a result, the Zimmerman reference area has been temporarily re-located to the Center for Southwest Research Gallery along with some of the public computers. The University Libraries, Office of Capital Projects and Physical Plant developed a remodeling plan for the first floor. Coming improvements include:

- The State Fire Marshall has required that UNM install a fire suppression system to protect the basement and first floor. Fire suppression in the remaining areas of the library will be phased in over the next several years.
- The UL is taking this opportunity to move forward with the first steps of our Research Plaza plans by converting some staff space on the first floor into public space.
- Over the next several years we will be creating a larger, more inviting reference area with a focus on multifunctional collaborative and learning spaces.

Even though the fire recovery process is consuming much of our time and energy all the faculty and staff of the four UL branches will continue to provide the best possible service to students, faculty and staff. Support for faculty teaching and research, as well as enhancing student learning, are high priorities for the UL. You will find that the reserve process (both paper and electronic) is still functioning efficiently – see <http://ereserves.unm.edu/eres/default.aspx> for more information, also, library research instruction for your classes is readily available – see http://elibrary.unm.edu/inst_req.php.

Other bright spots on the UL horizon include:

- Major serials cancellations scheduled for the 2006-2007 year were avoided with additional funds received from the UNM administration.
- The UL is in the process of developing a new three-year strategic plan to focus our resources on services and collections and to enhance customer service. We want to take this opportunity to thank the faculty who participated in our focus groups. You gave us invaluable information that continues to inform our planning process.
- DSpace UNM continues to grow and develop and we encourage you to take the opportunity to use and post to this useful institutional repository – see [**https://repository.unm.edu**](https://repository.unm.edu).
- The 5th annual Scholarly Communication Symposium co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, University Libraries, Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center and the Law Library is scheduled for November 9th, 2006 from 1:00-3:30. Registration information will be available in September.
- Construction is underway on the George M. Pearl building on Central Avenue which will house the Fine Arts and Design Library on the top floor.

Have a question? Stop by a library today!