

Newsletter

Volume 34, Number 4

July/August 2005

**New Mexico State Library Commission Open Hearing
New Mexico Municipal League Annual Conference
Roswell, New Mexico
August 31, 2005, 9:00 to 10:30 A.M.**

By Richard Akeroyd, NM State Librarian

At the State Library Commission's Open Hearing held at the NMLA Annual Conference in Albuquerque on April 1, 2005, some issues important to the NM library community were raised and discussed. These included LSTA funds and why we don't have a sub-grant program in NM, cost of bookmobile services, expansion of electronic information resources in the Magazines Online Program (e.g., adding "reference suites" and e-books, and library community involvement in the selection process), and progress on statewide resource sharing plans. In addition, it was recommended that discussion on two major issues should be extended to a future Library Commission Open Hearing. This Hearing will be held as a part of the NM Municipal League Librarians' Association annual business meeting in Roswell.

The two issues are:

* Establishment of New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) regulations to govern the distribution of future GO Bond funds.

Of particular concern was the lack of a local "maintenance of effort" requirement for eligibility in order to assure that the GO Bond funds are not used to replace local library funding.

* Revision of the formula and NMAC regulations governing the distribution of annual State Aid funds to public libraries. This was of particular concern with the potential for the substantial increase in State Aid funding that is being advocated.

Both of these issues have major policy and operational implications for the State Library. It is therefore very important that the Library Commission hear from a broad representation of the library community as part of its decision-making on these issues.

Please plan to attend this important Hearing. The State Library will distribute background information on both of these issues prior to the Hearing. If you are unable to attend the Hearing, please send your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to the State Librarian at richard.akeroyd@state.nm.us.

Look inside for details on our photo contest!

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The New Mexico Library Association

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2005 Mini-Conference

Plan a trip down Route 66 to Tucumcari! The mini-conference will be held at the Tucumcari Convention Center October 28th. Plan to arrive the night before so you can enjoy the shrimp boil that is famous in the area! Drive around and see the murals on various buildings (can you find them all?) and visit the Dinosaur Museum (it is really worth the time).

Watch your mailboxes and the website for details about the programs.

* * * *

NMLA 2006 Annual Conference

Mark your calendars April 19-22 for the 2006 NMLA conference. This year's conference will be held in the Four Corners area, home to the Farmington Public Library. Taking advantage of the warm April weather that we all enjoy in New Mexico will be highlighted, as this year's conference will be close to one of the country's best public golf courses, Pinon Hills, and some of your favorite national parks like Mesa Verde and the Aztec Ruins. Even the library itself is focused on "bringing the outdoors in" as part of its architectural design.

We think you will find the Farmington Public Library to be a comfortable, friendly place, reflecting the comfortable, friendly atmosphere of the Four Corners. We invite you to be a part of the 2006 NMLA conference in April. Of course, you have an open invitation to come up any time and explore the Four Corners and the Farmington Public Library.

Resolution on Disinformation, Media Manipulation & the Destruction of Public Information

Whereas the American Library Association recognizes the contribution librarianship can make in giving support for efforts to inform and educate the people of the United States on critical problems facing society (Policy 1.1); and

Whereas the mission of ALA is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all (Policy 1.2); and

Whereas ALA has as one of its officially stated goals that government information be widely and easily available (Policy 1.3: Priority Areas and Goals); and

Whereas inaccurate information, distortions of truth, excessive limitations on access to information, and the removal or destruction of information from the public domain are anathema to the ethos of librarianship and to the functioning of a healthy democracy; and

Whereas evidence exists revealing that some U.S. government officials and agencies use disinformation in pursuit of political and economic power, as well as war, thwarting the development of an informed citizenry and constituting a “critical problem facing society”; and

Whereas the list of documented instances of government use of disinformation continues to grow, and includes:

- the distribution to media outlets of government produced “video news releases” under the guise of independent journalism;

- the use of commentators paid by government agencies to express views favorable to government policies in clear violation of Federal Communications Commission regulations;

- the censorship of scientific studies warning of the true threat of global warming;

- the fabrication and deliberate distortion of information used to justify the U.S. invasion of Iraq;

- the removal of public information from U.S. depository libraries; and

- heightened assaults on constitutional rights under the guise of “national security”; therefore be it

Resolved that the American Library Association go on record as being opposed to the use by government of disinformation, media manipulation, the destruction and excision of public information, and other such tactics.

Resolved that the ALA encourages its members to teach and nurture 21st century information literacy skills among the American public to help them detect disinformation, media manipulation, and missing information.

Resolved that ALA encourages libraries to actively seek and acquire alternative information resources that provide a broad context for public understanding and evaluation of news and opinion.

Resolved that this resolution be shared broadly with members of ALA, the press, the public and government officials.

PASSED by ALA Council July 29, 2005

New Mexico Library Foundation Grants Applications Due September 15

Submitted by Charlene Greenwood

The grant guidelines are:

Eligibility: Any New Mexico library may apply (public, academic, school, special or private). Additionally, non-profit groups that directly benefit NM libraries may apply. Grant applications must clearly demonstrate that the libraries will benefit from these funds.

Scope: Grants must be used in a manner that follows the NMLF Mission Statement and that enhances library service in New Mexico.

Grant Awards: Awards will not exceed \$1,000.00. Awards are given semi-annually with application deadlines on March 15th and September 15th. Grants are announced twice a year in May and November.

For more information: Go to our website – www.nm-lf.org or e-mail Charlene Greenwood at charlene-libn@cybermesa.com or call 505-256-1379 in Albuquerque.

Mountain Plains Library Association Report - August 2005

by Valerie Nye

Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute

The MPLA Leadership Institute will be taking place October 23-28, 2005. The MPLA representatives from each state are responsible for forming a committee to select Leadership attendees from each state. The New Mexico selection committee was Kathy Matter, NMLA President; Kirsten Clark, 2004 Leadership Institute attendee; Olivia Li, 2003 Leadership Institute attendee; and Valerie Nye, MPLA Representative for New Mexico.

Based on the criteria outlined by the MPLA Leadership Institute, the committee recommended three attendees for the Institute. Each state in the MPLA region has at least 2 attendees. This year, all three of New Mexico's recommended attendees were selected by the MPLA Leadership Institute Committee. New Mexico Leadership Institute attendees for 2005 are: Elizabeth Eastwood from Mesa Public Library in Los Alamos, Jennifer Brown from Navajo Middle School, and Dexter Katzman from the Sunland Park Community Library. Congratulations to these outstanding applicants!

MPLA Board Choice Award

Every year, each member of the MPLA Executive Board is responsible for selecting someone for a Board Choice Award. This year, Anne Lefkofsky has been awarded the New Mexico Representative's Board Choice Award, and will receive a free year membership to MPLA. Anne is dedicated to providing quality library services to patrons and has devoted an enormous amount of time and creativity to the New Mexico Library Association. Thank you Anne for all of your hard work!

Mountain Plains Library Association Executive Board Meeting

Valerie Nye attended the MPLA Executive Board Meeting on July 23, 2005 in Denver.

MPLA appointed a Reorganization Task Force. The group was charged with reviewing the existing structure of MPLA and recommend changes that would better reflect the needs and interests of members and contribute to greater organizational effectiveness. The task force presented its recommendations. The full report is available online.

AASL Board Report

by Alison Almquist

Three concerns were successfully brought from the Affiliate Assembly to the AASL board of directors. The concerns dealt with funding school library programs, a request to update the national standards, and low voter turn out by AASL members in ALA elections.

The ALA Executive Board has approved a Special Task Force on School Libraries, to report back to Council and the Board at the 2006 Midwinter Meeting. The concern is "despite growing research documenting the positive impact of school libraries staffed by qualified professionals on student achievement, a number of recent media stories have reported the elimination of school library programs and the "de-professionalization" of school library media centers through the elimination of school library media specialists".

Nominations Invited for Thomson Gale TEAMS Award to Recognize Teachers and Media Specialists - Deadline: September 9, 2005

The Thomson Gale TEAMS Award recognizes and encourages the critical collaboration between the teacher and media specialist to promote learning and increase student achievement.

All K-12 public and private schools in the United States and Canada are eligible to enter. Three winners will each receive a \$2,500 cash award; Thomson Gale products worth approximately \$500; a one-year subscription to Library Media Connection; and the Educator's Profes-

sional Bookshelf from Linworth Publishing.

Nominations will be evaluated based on demonstrated collaboration between media specialists and teachers during the 2004-05 school year; effective techniques that positively impact student learning and achievement; support received from school leadership; and the ability of others to replicate this best practice.

Awards will be presented at a special reception held in conjunction

with the American Association of School Librarians (<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslindex.htm>) national conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in early October 2005.

Nominations may be submitted by library media specialists, teachers, principals, students, or parents. See the program's Web site for complete nomination requirements.

RFP Link: <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/3302/gale>

Getting the Word Out

by Regina Rose, Albert S. Cook Library, Towson University (originally published in the Spring 2005 edition of The Crab, the newsletter of the Maryland Library Association. Reprinted with permission of the author and editors of The Crab)

A difficult task that faces any library is informing patrons about their services. Most of us use our web sites to convey the basics, but there are other ways to get the word out about your services. In the January 2004, edition of the College and Research Libraries News, Pat Van Zandt related how the College of William and Mary's Swem Library had begun a rather unique newsletter entitled, The Throne. It was designed to let library users know what was new, fill them in on some library tidbits and entertain them, as well. The newsletter was for distribution in the library's restrooms where there is always a captive audience in any facility.

Drawing on this concept, I began in June 2004, a semi-regular newsletter for the Cook Library patrons at Towson University called Scuttlebutt. It's a

one-paged flyer with library news, a "meet the staff" column, a match or easy trivia game, and other items that inform and/or entertain our patrons. While libraries have been posting program details or other items in restrooms for years, having a "special" newsletter just of this area of the library has proven to be popular among faculty, staff and students alike.

The Scuttlebutt is posted in plastic holders that can contain several copies of the newsletter in each stall. Patrons are encouraged to take a copy with them and many have. In fact, some months I have had to print extra copies to keep up with demand. I keep it simple with few graphics and a basic type face. The only color comes from the paper which changes with every issue, thus letter readers know when a new edition has arrived. My e-mail address is in the byline for comments and questions and so far, the response has been very enthusiastic. Several people have let me know that they look forward to each issue and are learning new things about Cook Library and the services we offer. It's a simple idea, but a restroom newsletter is an interesting way to reach out to your library users.

Grant Awarded to the School of Library & Information Science

from REFORMA.net

The University of South Florida, School of Library and Information Science, in partnership with the University of Central Florida Libraries, Florida Atlantic University Library and the University of South Florida Tampa Campus Library has received a grant in the amount of \$758,736 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The ALSTARS grant provides funding for 24 full-time students to pursue a curriculum designed to educate future professionals for positions in academic libraries. Partner libraries will provide employment/internship opportunities, chart student progress, and coordinate their advising, mentoring, and curriculum needs. This information will be analyzed to aid in the development of a model academic library curriculum. Students selected will have either an advanced subject degree, be willing to enter into a dual-degree program, or special language skills. The project directors are Vicki L. Gregory and Anna H. Perrault.

The co-directors both have professional experience in academic libraries. Gregory is Professor and Director of the USF School of Library and Information Science. Her research interests include electronic communication, copyright and intellectual property, and the effect of the state on libraries (funding and services). She has three books, including *The State and the Academic Library* published by Greenwood Press, *Multicultural Resources on the Internet: the United States and Canada* published by Libraries Unlimited, and her latest is *Selecting and Managing Electronic Resources* published by Neal-Schuman.

Perrault is the current President of Beta Phi Mu, the international honor society for library and information science and a professor. She was named Distinguished Alumni at the Florida State University School of Information Studies in 2003 and Outstanding Alumni for the Louisiana State University SLIS in 2004. Publications include *United States History: A*

Multicultural, Interdisciplinary Guide to Information Sources published by Libraries Unlimited and numerous articles and reports on collection analysis and assessment. She has been the recipient of research awards including the ALCTS/Blackwell's Scholarship Award (2000) and an OCLC/ALISE research grant (2002).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Organizing a First Time Festival at City of Rocks State Park

by Eric Weisman

Though I've been aware of storytelling for quite a few years, I never gave much thought about storytelling as an art or storytelling festivals. This changed a few years ago when I began working in a park in southwest Oregon. There I met Tom, my co-worker and future friend, whose homemade business card proclaimed him a "teller." At the time the term was new to me, and, when I was invited to hear him give a presentation didn't quite know what to expect.

I sat there that evening crowded into a tiny combination book store/coffee house with about 15 others and watched and listened as Tom worked his art. One of his stories was a creation myth of the raven and I found it fascinating and funny. I was somewhat amazed to learn that what was clearly (to me at least) an oral history passed along for generations was in fact crafted by the very person to whom I was listening. I discovered that evening just how powerful a good story could be.

A few years later, I found myself in a new job and learned that one of my duties was to program weekend events in the parks. My predecessor had created birding weekends and desert natural history programs and I was asked to design my own events. After visiting and learning about City of Rocks State Park, near

Deming, New Mexico, I was reminded of that night when I listened to Tom. City of Rocks is a beautiful site, but it is also a hub of human history. Not so far away you can find land used by miners, Native Americans, ranchers, Mexicans, and many others. If this land could only speak. The idea of a storytelling festival seemed a great fit.

On the evening of Friday October 28, and throughout the day on Saturday, October 29, I am inviting storytellers to come out and speak for the land. The 1st Annual City of Rocks Storytelling Festival is seeking any help from storytellers willing to come out and participate. As a first time festival with very little budget I hope to at least raise some funds for gas reimbursements. But, perhaps an appreciative audience will substitute for money, if so please contact me by phone or email. I can be reached at 505-744-5998 or eric.weisman@state.nm.us.

* * * * *

Eric Weisman is the Regional Interpreter for southwestern New Mexico State Parks. He is responsible for public programming at seven parks, including Elephant Butte Lake, Rockhound State Park, and City of Rocks State Park.

A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents

by Rosemary Wenzel

It is very difficult, in fact near impossible, for those of us who are unable to understand or read Hebrew to interpret the Hebrew wording. Being in this position is most frustrating and restrictive. I have, therefore, put together a comprehensive guide which I hope will help resolve this problem.

The Guide includes the Hebrew alphabet, Hebrew vowels, numerical values, Jewish calendar, conversion tables, formula to convert a Jewish year to a Gregorian year, how to read headstones, symbols on headstones and their meanings, frequently used Hebrew words with abbreviations found on tombstones, Hebrew given boys' and girls' names, Hebrew letters which are liable to be misread, glossary of Yiddish terms, examples of Hebrew documents/ inscriptions, (how to read a Ketubah, marriage authorization, get etc), many photographs and much more.

The Guide is available from: JGSGB Publications, PO Box 180, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3WH, England, U.K. or via the web-site.

Online Library Courses

Have you been wondering where you or your staff can take credit courses in library science conveniently, and at a reasonable price?

The Library Science Program at Doña Ana Branch Community College in Las Cruces (a branch of New Mexico State University) will be offering several 3 credit courses, many of them only 8 weeks long, starting in August and October. All courses are offered ONLINE! We even have 2 new classes starting this fall, in advanced cataloging, and introduction to information literacy!

Online courses being offered in the fall semester include:

L SC 100 Introduction to Library and Information Services
(Aug. 22 – Oct. 15, or, Oct. 17 – Dec. 10)

L SC 120 Introduction to Cataloging
(Aug. 22 - Dec. 10)

L SC 130 Introduction to Technical Services
(Oct. 17 – Dec. 10)

L SC 160 Introduction to Public Services
(Aug. 22 – Oct. 15)

L SC 175 Civic Involvement (requires community service)
(Aug. 22 – Dec. 10, or, Oct. 17 – Dec. 10)

L SC 210 Computer Applications in Libraries and Information Centers
(Oct. 17 – Dec. 10)

L SC 221/222 Cooperative Experience (requires work in a library setting)
(Aug 22 - Dec. 10, or, Oct. 17 – Dec. 10)

L SC 255 Introduction to Information Literacy – NEW COURSE!!
(Oct. 17 – Dec. 10)

L SC 260 Advanced Cataloging - NEW COURSE!!
(Aug. 22 – Oct. 15)

Non-degree seeking students who desire single classes for professional development are always welcome, however students may also choose to complete coursework leading to an Associates Degree in Library Science or a Certificate of Completion in Library Science. Additionally the program offers courses that may fulfill state requirements for Library Media Specialist Endorsements.

It's easy to be admitted and enroll in our reasonably priced courses. Out of state students enrolling in 6 credits or less even receive the in state tuition rates! For further information, please contact:

Susan Pinkerton, Assistant Professor, Library Science Program, Doña Ana Branch Community College
P.O. Box 30001, MSC 3DA
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8001
505-527-7567, fax 505-528-7280, spinkert@nmsu.edu

"Brand" the NMLA Website and Win

The NMLA Board is looking for a few good photos from the membership to help "brand" the Association's website. The website is in a transition phase and moving toward a new look and ease of navigation. We are looking for photos from around the State, points of interest, seasonal or something from your library. Photos should convey the spirit of libraries and community in NM -- whatever their subject matter.

Each NMLA member may submit no more than 2 photos for consideration. The photos must be submitted digitally. Owners of the winning photos must give rights for use of their work to NMLA for one year, possible future years to be negotiated. Photos must have been taken within the last 2 years. If your photos contain people, please be certain you have their permission for use or a completed "model release" form (see sample below).

- The first place winner will receive a full Annual Conference Registration for 2006 in Farmington.
- Second and third place winners will receive free Registration to the NMLA Mini-Conference in Tucumcari, 2005.

Photos must be submitted by August 31, 2005 at 5PM to:

Linda Morgan Davis
NMLA Public Relations Committee, Chair
ldavis@cabq.gov 897-8816

Judging by Kathy Matter and Anne Lefkofsky. Winners notified in early September.

Model Release Form

Photographer Information

Full Name:

Address:

Subject Information

Full Name:

Address:

Final Details

Is the subject over the age minority? ___ Yes ___ No Agreement Signing Date: _____

Use the area below to enter any other details that you would like (Leave blank if not needed):

WebJunction 101

Have you registered for WebJunction NM yet? Do you ever wish that you had a place to communicate with distant colleagues, trade ideas and best practices, and find information and resources to help you provide library service? This hands-on class will orient you to the many features of the online community for library staff, and will get you started as you discover the array of information, discussion boards, online classes, advice, and connections with other librarians around New Mexico and the United States.

Instructor: Cassandra Osterloh, Continuing Education Coordinator, New Mexico State Library

To register for one of the classes listed below, register online at: <http://www.stlib.state.nm.us/workshop.htm> or contact Jackie Dalmy at the New Mexico State Library Development Office at 1-800-340-3890 or jackie.dalmy@state.nm.us.

Thanks to the New Mexico State Library, all workshops are free of charge!

Please Note: Food & drinks are not provided at trainings conducted or coordinated by the NM State Library.

August 26, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Gallup: University of New Mexico - Gallup, Zollinger Library, Co-Sponsored by Zollinger Library, UNM-Gallup

August 30, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Hobbs: Literacy Alliance Building, Room 110 (104 S. Dalmont Street)

September 9, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Los Lunas: University of New Mexico - Valencia, LRC 143

September 23, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Española: Northern New Mexico Community College, High Technology Bldg, Room 125

September 26, 9:30 am - 12: 00 pm

Las Cruces: Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

September 26, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Las Cruces: Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

Editor's Note: The last section of this article was omitted from the last newsletter. Here is the article reprinted in its entirety.

From Special Librarian to Public Librarian: What a Year It Has Been!

By Linda Morgan Davis, Taylor Ranch Branch, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

It has been one year since I made the leap from the special library environment to the public library.

What a year it has been.

I spent 20+ years in special libraries, working mostly in the medical, research and pharmaceutical arena. What did I know about being a public librarian? Why would I even want to make the change? The Albuquerque medical library where I was working was sold to yet another in a long line of for-profit companies. The Chief Financial Officer decided to stop paying the journal vendor, even after the renewal list had been placed. A medical library without current journals and only minimal e-journal access, this didn't sound like quality health care, good customer service to staff and patients, or the place I wanted to be.

My goal has always been to walk out to the parking lot each evening and reflect on at least one good thing that happened that day and leave all the bad events of the day behind. More and more I was not finding anything good to reflect on at the end of the day. For more than 5 years, I had annually been writing position papers and doing cost-benefit analysis for Administration justifying the need for the library in the corporate environment, a task that was wearing me down. Being of a "certain age", I didn't want to end my career on a low note and bitter. It was time to start looking for something else before more than just the journals were cancelled.

As luck would have it I saw an ad for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System (System). I didn't think this was for me. What could a corporate librarian offer the public library? I didn't think the public library was the environment for me. A colleague, in public librarianship, spoke highly of her transition to public service several years before. She told me that public libraries "get" what libraries are all about and that in this environment I wouldn't have to justify the existence of the library annually. I began to think in more positive terms. Of course there are many skills that transfer and all my years of managing the library as well as the AV department and assorted other scheduling groups would be an asset to the System but why would they even want to interview someone with no public library experience?

I don't know why they did, but they did interview me and took a chance by offering me a position as a Branch Manager.

It has been such an eventful year. I really have enjoyed the transition. I must admit that I was terrified about working the Information Desk and hoped desperately that useful information from long ago would come back to me like *Scott's* for stamps and *Grove's* for music, or is it the other way around? Who is Lemony Snicket and why have there been *A Series of Unfortunate Events*? There have been bumps along the way (the hot water tank died and leaked everywhere, there was a rattlesnake in the parking lot...) but there is always something good to reflect on in the parking lot each evening. The Administration and Staff have made my transition so much easier by their great openness and sharing as well as support. I have met and worked with so many fine professionals in the System and NMLA.

For more than 20 years, I sold public librarianship short. It's a great place to be and each day we make a difference in our customers' lives.

Why did it take me so long to come to this place in my career?

NEW MEXICO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 26074
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Address Service Requested

Calendar

October 12-15—MPLA/WLA Joint Conference
Jackson Hole, WY

October 23-28—MPLA Leadership Institute
Ghost Ranch, NM

October 28—NMLA Mini-Conference
Tucumcari, NM