New Mexico Library Association Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 3, May/June 2001

2001: A Library Odyssey has run its course. We have journeyed into new territory or into a different dimension, discovered colleagues for our journey, and found direction for future journeys and projects. Like Odysseus the ancient Greek hero we have gratefully returned home, but perhaps following the lead of the travelers in the Space Odyssey, we have learned about a startling concept or have heard a story which has the potential to greatly alter the way we carry out our work. Stories and the sharing of stories became a spontaneous theme of the conference.

On Thursday morning Nancy Kranich, president of the American Library Association, urged us to tell our communities stories about how libraries change lives. Our keynote speaker, Marti Smith, narrated a story from C. S Lewis to introduce her ideas on information ethics. At Thursday night's banquet Judy Jance told wonderful stories from her growing up years and development as a writer of mysteries. At the Mysterious Southwest Book and Author Dinner Friday evening, JA Jance, Michael McGarrity, and Fred Harris shared stories about their colleague Tony Hillerman who had a few stories to tell himself.

Overall organizers of the 79th annual conference agree that the conference went very well though there were, of course, a few glitches. We are studying the evaluations written by attendees whose comments have been generally positive. Each one of us will have a different perception of conference highlights depending on which programs we selected. One goal of the conference program planning committee was to offer participants a rich variety of choices in every time slot. In addition to three pre-conferences on Wed., around 100 speakers including 12 from out of town presented 41 programs on Thurs. and Friday. Computer lab-based presentations were given in the Computer Lab of Main Library a few blocks away. In the convention center we had space for a Job Fair and special interest group meetings. The Youth Services / Land of Enchantment Luncheon was a great success. Thanks to retiring co-chair, Patricia Froehlich, and co-chair Tracie Antonuk who has already begun program planning for the 80th conference in 2002.

A huge thanks to all NMLA members who made presentations, participated in panels or facilitated discussions. While the conference planners invited excellent speakers from outside NM to challenge us with a new perspective, the planners also tapped into the talent and knowledge of our own members and librarians in NM.

Thanks to Local Arrangements Chair, Ellanie Sampson, and her many subcommittees. For this conference 529 persons registered, one of the largest conferences in recent years. The increase may be the result of offering for the first time the option of registering for a half day in addition to the usual one-day or full conference registration. Thanks to Albuquerque - Bernalillo County Library System for use of Main Library's Computer Lab.

MPLA Creates Intellectual Freedom Award

A new "MPLA Intellectual Freedom Award" was approved by the board at the April meeting. Alice Meister and Jim Heckel deserve much credit for their work on the Intellectual Freedom Committee and for drafting this new award.

The Awards Committee will put out a formal call for award nominations (awards to be presented in Phoenix) soon. If you want to get an early start and nominate a person, company, or organization, see the nomination form at:
http://www.usd.edu/mla/committees/awards/awardsform.html

Text of the new "MPLA Intellectual Freedom Award:

MPLA INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD

This award is given to an individual or group making significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights. The recipient should have demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles, nature, responsibilities, and implications of the First Amendment. The recipient should live within the Mountain Plains region or be a non-resident whose contribution has a demonstrable effect on the Mountain Plains region. The recipient should have applied that understanding of the principles in one or more of the following ways:

1. In defense of the First Amendment principles in the face of a serious challenge to those principles though not necessarily limited to libraries.

2. In support of the First Amendment principles through an active role in:

1. Formulating programs which develop people's ability to deal with a full range of opinion/controversy and with the issues associated with such controversy, or

2. Developing, or materially assisting in the development of, a legal base for the continued enjoyment of freedom of mind, its strengthening, and its defense, or

3. Expanding the philosophical foundations of the principles or contributing to a better understanding of them.

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From The President’s Desk

After a year’s worth of planning by dozens of NMLA members, the conference passed by too quickly for me. I wish I could have cloned myself and attended every single session. Next April our annual conference will be held in Las Cruces on the campus of New Mexico State University under the leadership of Earl Phillips, vice-president. The Las Cruces Local Arrangements Committee has met several times already, and planning for the 2002 program is underway.

The 2001 conference at the Albuquerque Convention Center attracted 529 registrants and 63 vendors, and with a large facility we were able to offer more simultaneous programs and generous sized (10 ft by 10 ft.) booths for vendors. In addition to a large hall for the exhibit area the conference required a hall seating several hundred for our annual membership meeting. The success and growth of our conference means that the convention facilities we have used in the past in smaller NM cities, such as Carlsbad, Ruidoso or Roswell can no longer provide adequate facilities.

After much discussion board members voted for a plan which alternates the location of annual conference between Albuquerque and Las Cruces and will move the mini-conference among the quadrants of the state. With long range planning by the site committee, we will co-ordinate sites for annual and mini-conferences and strike a balance between regions. The 2001 mini-conference will be held Oct. 26 in Farmington at San Juan College. The April 2002 annual conference will be held in Las Cruces and the 2002 mini-conference in October will be sited in the southern part of the state. The 2003 annual conference will be held in Albuquerque at a hotel/conference center.

Because New Mexico’s population is so dispersed and we must travel great distances between cities and towns, attending the NMLA conferences is an excellent way to network and share knowledge with colleagues from around the state. Besides being just plain fun, NMLA conferences have been an essential element of my on-going education. I have learned much from colleagues who generously offered ideas and a different perspective.

Library Awarded $4,000 to Enhance Research in Durango Microfilm Collection

The New Mexico State University Library has been awarded $4,000 by NMSU’s Southwest and Border Cultures Institute to identify and acquire secondary research tools to assist scholars performing research in the Library’s Durango Microfilm Collection, and to conduct related public programming activities. Principal investigators for the project are Library faculty members Dr. Laurence Creider and Molly Molloy.

The microfilmed archive of primary documents from the Archdiocese of Durango, Mexico, is housed in the Library’s Rio Grande Historical Collections. The approximately one million manuscript pages in the microfilmed archive document the ecclesiastical, social, economic and political history of the territory under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese. This colonial territory, known as Nueva Vizcaya, included areas in New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and several northern Mexican states.

While the Library holds some of the works needed to support research use of the Durango Microfilm, much more needs to be identified and acquired. Bibliographic utilities and databases will be consulted to identify specific titles in subject areas such as religion, paleography, history and geography. Materials will be acquired from in-print and out-of-print sources in the U.S., Mexico, Spain and elsewhere. The availability and use of both the Durango collection and the research tools will be promoted to researchers through news releases, articles, a brochure and a colloquium.

Grant awards from the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute, a joint project of NMSU’s College of Arts and Sciences, the University Museum and the Library, are made possible by a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This is the first year that awards have been made by the Institute. For more information, please contact Creider at 646-4707.

MPLA Award (Continued from Page 1)

Applications may be submitted by a library, Friends of the Library or Library Foundation organization, state or regional agency, or an individual. Membership in MPLA is required for the submitter, but the recipient does not have to be a MPLA member.

Applications will be judged on:

1. The demonstration of a clear understanding of the principles, nature, responsibilities, and implications of the First Amendment.

2. The application and understanding of the principles of First Amendment in either facing a serious challenge to these principles, formulating programs helping people deal with such controversy, helping develop a legal base, expanding the philosophical foundations, or contributing to a better understanding of them.

3. The significance of the impact on the enhancement of First Amendment rights in the Mountain Plains region.
ALA News

ALA Annual Report available

The 1999-2000 annual report of the American Library Association (ALA) will be available online at www.ala.org/pio/ar00.html soon. The report includes highlights from the past fiscal year, including public awareness efforts, membership, conferences, publishing, honors, leadership and grants.

The past fiscal year saw membership reach an all-time high of 61,103 members, making it the first time in ALA history that membership has surpassed 60,000; The Campaign for America's Libraries was introduced; more than 500 people from every state except Hawaii attended the 26th Annual National Library Legislative Day; and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) launched the new Michael L. Printz Award, which will be given annually for literary excellence in young-adult literature.

The cover of this year's report features photos from ALA's photo contest, Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries, sponsored by ALA and the Library of Congress with underwriting from Ingram Library Services, Inc.

A copy of the Annual Report was sent to all ALA members as a supplement to the April issue of American Libraries magazine. For financial information from fiscal year 1999-2000, please see the ALA Treasurer's Report at www.ala.org/alaorg/treasurer.

For additional copies, call the ALA Public Information Office at 800-545-2433, ext. 5041/5044 or send e-mail to pio@ala.org.

ALA Joins Verizon To Build Online Literacy Network

The American Library Association (ALA), has joined with Verizon, the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL), and Reading is Fundamental (RIF) to create the Verizon Literacy Network (www.verizonreads.com) - an online network that provides continuous and instant access to a variety of critical resources that promote a more literate America.

The first phase of the Verizon Literacy Network, which premiered March 19, 2001, is "Ask Verizon Reads." Designed to provide answers to questions about literacy, "Ask Verizon Reads" is powered by Ask Jeeves, a leading provider of intuitive, intelligent question-answering technologies:

Visitors to the Verizon Literacy Network can enter a question about literacy in the "Ask Verizon Reads" question box and instantly receive a comprehensive list of Web sites that contain specific information related to the question. The questions provide the searcher with the most specific and applicable information available. ALA is developing a list of 100 questions about libraries, literacy programs and coalitions based on existing ALA information and materials. When visitors ask questions regarding libraries and literacy, they will be sent to a page on the ALA Web site that answers their question.

"The American Library Association is proud to take part in these two national efforts meant to educate, build coalitions and share resources about literacy," said ALA President Nancy Kranich. "Libraries and librarians have always been at the forefront of literacy efforts, which are essential to ensuring the public can participate in the 21st-century information society."

Question boxes also will appear on the ALA, NCFL, NIFL and RIF Web sites. "Verizon is committed to using technology as a powerful catalyst for positive change," said Verizon Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer Charles R. Lee. "Our vision in building the Verizon Literacy Network is to significantly improve literacy by opening the door to new levels of collaboration between America's literacy providers in delivering valuable information, resources and training over the Internet to millions of households nationwide."

"We are proud that this network of the nation's top literacy organizations have chosen Ask Jeeves to power their online initiative," said Claudio Pinkus, president of Ask Jeeves Business Solutions. "Ask Jeeves' intuitive interface enables people to quickly and easily find the information they are looking for. By understanding and analyzing the questions people ask, we will provide our partners with valuable insight about their users' needs and interests. We plan to help the Verizon Literacy Network stay in close touch with its online users and move it closer to achieving its goals."

This online network is unique in that it links charitable, public and private resources nationwide to focus on a single societal issue. Resources on the network will include educational information on literacy, local and national organizations providing assistance, literacy volunteer opportunities, distance learning courses and more as the network continues to grow.

Verizon Foundation has committed to invest $3 million in grants for the Network's technology and content, including $1.5 million in grants presented today to the ALA, NCFL, NIFL and the RIF. ALA will use the $250,000 grant and the previous $150,000 they received from Verizon, to create buildliteracy.org, a coalition-building Web site. The Web site will improve the exchange of knowledge, information and resources between existing literacy coalitions while encouraging the development and growth of new literacy coalitions in communities across the United States.

Buildliteracy.org will launch in June 2001 at the ALA Annual Conference. The Verizon Literacy Network will continue to add features throughout 2001 and beyond. Functionality to be added this year includes: Verizon Literacy University; an online distance-learning program; Online Literacy Directory, a list of literacy organizations; and Provider Administrative Site, which includes information and tools to help literacy providers with administrative functions.

The Verizon Literacy Network was announced during a national launch event in Dallas on March 19, in conjunction with the National Conference on Family Literacy's annual conference. Noted actor and literacy champion James Earl Jones attended to take part in a special reading of The Lion King at the Dallas Zoo. For more information, visit www.VerizonReads.com.
NMSU Library Receives Grant to Process Tombaugh Papers

The NMSU Library has been awarded $8,500 by the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board to process the unpublished papers of the late Dr. Clyde W. Tombaugh. The Tombaugh family recently donated the papers to the Library's Rio Grande Historical Collections. The funding will begin the process of making this large and valuable research collection -- estimated at over 160 cubic feet of materials -- accessible to researchers.

Included among the papers are materials concerning Tombaugh's early career at Lowell Observatory, where he discovered the planet Pluto, and at White Sands Missile Range. The papers are significant not only for their documentation of Tombaugh himself, but also for evidence of the history of astronomy, physics and related sciences. The principal investigator for the processing project is the interim department head of the Library's Southwest and Border Research Center, Molly Molloy.

The New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board is funded by the New Mexico legislature and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. Recognizing the cultural diversity of New Mexico, the mission of the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board is to advocate the preservation of the historical records of the state and to stimulate public access to the state's historical records.

For more information or to make a donation to continue the processing of the collection beyond the period of grant funding, please contact Molly Molloy at 646-6931 or email mmolloy@lib.nmsu.edu.

University Library Receives SME Library Award

The New Mexico State University Library was recently awarded $903 by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Education Foundation. The purpose of the SME Library Award is to initiate or upgrade a manufacturing library that supports a manufacturing engineering or technology curriculum. The award is one of six awarded this year. The project director is Joanna Szumad, the engineering librarian in the Branson Library reference department.

The University Library features a substantial collection of national and international standards and local, county and New Mexico codes as well as general resources in the area of manufacturing education. SME support will enable the Library to upgrade, update and expand its collection to better serve students and faculty in New Mexico State University's manufacturing education program. The Library also received an SME Library Award in 1998.

For more information, please contact Szumad at 505-646-7486 or email jszumad@lib.nmsu.edu.

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YOUR LIBRARY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN NMLF MINIGRANT...

...up to $1,000. But you need to apply by July 2nd using simple guidelines. Contact NMLF chair, Charlene Greenwood, at gwgcharlene@qwest.net or call her at (505) 256-1379.
Mountain Plains Library Association Announces Winners

A drawing for 10 free memberships to Mountain Plains Library Association was held at the Albuquerque NMLA Conference. The winners were:

- Carol Sarath, Gallup-McKinley County Schools
- Barbara Moore - Jimmy Carter Middle School, Albuquerque
- Annie Tyrrell - Alamogordo Public Library
- Joyce Komraus - Michael Nivison Library, Cloudcroft
- Mary McNeill-Jones - Laguna-Acoma Mid/Sr High School
- Rosie Klopho - Roswell Public Library
- Linda Knudsen - Many Farms High School Library, Arizona
- Jeannette Lassell - Bloomfield Public
- Lera Geroy - Taos High School Library
- Barbara Moulds - Seven Bar Elementary, Rio Rancho

Each of these winners will receive all the benefits of belonging to a great library organization. Among these benefits is a subscription to the newsletter, belonging to the active e-list, a reduced rate for the conference in December in Phoenix.

For more information about MPLA check out their website at www.usd.edu/mla.

Borderland Health Project On Target In Accomplishing Goals: Update On The Progress Of A Mission

The January 2001 issue of Citations included an article about the Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN), a partnership of seventeen academic and public libraries, hospitals, clinics and other public health service organizations in New Mexico's Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero counties. BIEN's mission is to create opportunities to improve the health of residents of this borderland region. The mechanism for accomplishing this mission is the BIEN! Project funded by a National Library of Medicine Information Access Grant. NMSU Library is the lead agency in this project.

(See the January article at http://lib.nmsu.edu/about/lib/newsletter/choice.html).

This issue's article will update readers about BIEN! Project activities and events since January:

- Computers with Internet access and printers have been installed at all 17 BIEN! Project partner locations.
- Creation of a BIEN! Project Internet web site accessible at www.nmsu.edu/bien. This site includes many links to quality consumer/patient health information web sites in Spanish and English as well as links of interest to health care providers and health educators. Besides searching for and locating health/medical information, BIEN! web site visitors can provide feedback to the site's webmaster and BIEN! Project Health Information Reference Librarian Molly McGetrick and post messages to the site's bulletin board.
- Various web-based health and medical information database subscriptions have been purchased and are now available to project partners. Because the NMSU libraries are a BIEN! partner, faculty, students, and staff have access to EBSCO Publishing's AltHealthWatch, a fulltext alternative and complementary health information database, and MDConsult, a health and medical information database geared to health care professionals. Ask about accessing these databases at the Reference/Information desks at Branson and Zuhl libraries.
- Conducting electronic health information access training sessions at BIEN! Partner sites in February and early March. A total of 20 sessions were conducted by Project trainers Judith Pearson and Molly McGetrick. Participants were groups of public librarians and staff, academic librarians and staff, health educators, and health care providers. Approximately 140 people have participated in training sessions to date. More will be scheduled in March and April. Training sessions include: presentation of BIEN! web site features and instructions on navigating it to locate and retrieve information. Training/instruction is also provided on searching EBSCO and MDConsult databases. Each training session includes a time period for "hands-on" practice using the resources to reinforce learning. Overall response to the training sessions by both participants and trainers has been very positive. Participants are invited to complete training evaluation forms which provide valuable feedback to the trainers, including suggestions for modifying the BIEN! web site which have been implemented.

- Approximately $28,000 has been spent to purchase health information resources in Spanish and English in print and other formats based on results of a needs assessment survey of project partners. Each partner site will receive a core collection of materials tailored to that location's stated needs and will be used for reference and distribution.
- One of the goals of the project is to provide timely and quality health-related research information and other health reference information to consumers, health care providers, health educators, allied health professionals, students, faculty, and librarians. Already, the Project staff has responded to numerous information requests via email and phone and will continue to provide this service for the life of the project.

NLM funding for the BIEN! Project ends in September 2001. However, a proposal was recently submitted to the RGK Foundation for continued funding and plans are underway to approach the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for funds to expand the project's activities and services.

If you wish to help BIEN! in its good work bringing health information to residents of the Borderland, please contribute to the Library's BIEN! fund (see form on this page). Your help is very much needed and appreciated.

For more information about BIEN! or the BIEN! Project, please contact project staff Molly McGetrick or Judith Pearson at Branson Library (505-646-3078), Sylvia Ortiz, project director/principal investigator and head of reference at Branson Library at 505-646-7481, or Norice Lee, Chairperson of the BIEN! Executive Board and DABCC Library Services Director at 505-527-7556.
Laboratory Research Library Receives Quality Award

In the wake of being named the Federal Library of the Year in 1999 by the Federal Library and Information Center Committee, the Research Library of the Department of Energy’s Los Alamos National Laboratory recently received a second award—the prestigious New Mexico Roadrunner Quality Award from the board of directors of Quality New Mexico.

The Research Library began its quality improvement efforts in 1995 with customer-focused, process-driven business solutions that improved customer satisfaction and introduced product innovations to better serve the Laboratory community. By actively soliciting feedback from library patrons and then implementing changes based on that feedback, the Library was able to improve processes and increase or improve services offered to its patrons.

Quality-New Mexico’s board of directors announced the 2000 New Mexico Quality Awards in January. This year, 18 New Mexico organizations were recognized as Roadrunner Award recipients. The Laboratory’s Research Library was the only library to receive such recognition.

A nonprofit organization, Quality New Mexico educates New Mexicans about quality; encourages and rewards quality in business, education, government, and health care; and promotes the New Mexico economy. It administers the New Mexico Quality Awards Program in accordance with New Mexico Executive Order 95-16.

The New Mexico Quality Roadrunner Award recognizes organizations and businesses in New Mexico that have made significant progress on the road to excellence and have undergone an in-depth assessment and evaluation by a board of examiners for the New Mexico Quality Award.

For more information about the Research Library’s quality improvement program, contact Lou Pray at 505-667-5906.

Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration.


They call us “The Miracle Workers”
By Patricia Garrett

For those of you who have never been to Capitan (and I’m sure there are a lot), it is a small town located in the middle of Lincoln County. Several years ago, some folks here decided that the town was missing something—a library. So with a few volunteers and several boxes of donated books, the doors opened in August of 1996.

In 1998, Linda Fox joined the volunteers at the library. With her background and training, she saw that the technology was in place and the library became a fully recognized library supported by the New Mexico State Library System.

CPL is unique in that it is not managed by city or county, but is supported primarily by fund raisers and donations. It is run entirely by volunteer staff from director down. We receive a small stipend from the Village of Capitan and a grant from the state library for collection materials.

When Linda resigned as director, Maxine Schrup stepped in. Maxine had been with the library almost from the beginning. She and husband Raynond, were staunch supporters of the library and both spent many hours working at the library. She and Raymond were nominated for and won the Amigo Award last year. In October, Maxine entered the hospital with some medical problems. She was not to return to us, but passed away December 15th. It was her dream to build a building to house the library and get out of the tiny rental. I went to the cemetery one day in the middle of December to visit with Maxine and ask for her help. I had a feeling when I left she was watching over us.

Things began falling into place! The end of December, we received a large donation from one of our patrons. This, along with the money raised through our building fund campaign, gave us some negotiating power. After the first of the year, a building came on the market, which the Board and staff felt would make a wonderful library. Alas, the building was under contract. BUT, the contract fell through and we made an offer on the property. The owner was willing to carry the papers and was content with the down payment we were able to make.

The building became ours the first of March. We learned that the structure was built in 1924 as a Nazarene Church and has thick, sturdy adobe walls. Later the church was converted into a home and a glassed-in porch was added along the back. The building sits on three lots and has a lovely back yard with trees, grass and plants.

We had spent the majority of our money on the down payment and were now faced with renovation expenses. A licensed plumber and electrician had to be hired, but out of nowhere came all these folks to help tear down walls, put up dry wall, tape and texture, paint, reconstruct bookcases, haul away garbage, put in doors, ramps, etc. Jerry Lane, a used-book dealer from Albuquerque, gave us 11 sturdy bookcases. All we had to do was pick them up. The renovations started on March 2nd, and on April 3rd we opened the doors in the new building.

We are continually amazed at what has been accomplished. We recently held an open house/celebration for the library. The refreshments were catered and paid for by a patron. Rev. Thompson and Dr. Warren came to bless the building and grounds. The Ruidoso Greeters, along with the Capitan Chamber of Commerce, held a ribbon cutting ceremony. About 100 people from the area came to see this wonder that came about through a series of miraculous happenings.
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