Other Public Library Facts

- 118 public library facilities serve 91 communities in 31 of the 33 New Mexico counties. Only Mora and Harding County don’t have public libraries.

- New Mexicans borrowed 10,562,455 items in 2010, an increase of 3.7% over 2009. That’s 5.25 items per capita.

- 1,140,637 people have library cards and borrowed 9.26 items in 2010.

- 14,451 programs were offered just for children and teens and attended by 352,424 people.

- While state and local economies are struggling, public libraries are rising to the challenge by providing assistance to help people understand and use government Web sites; complete online job applications, access jobs databases and other resources and complete online government forms.

- 93% help people understand and use government Web sites; 70% help people complete online job applications and 90% of libraries provide access to jobs databases and other resources.

- 8,324,986 people visited New Mexico public libraries in 2010.

- 81% of public libraries now offer free wireless service to the public compared to 51% in 2007.

- New Mexico public libraries now offer over 45,000 electronic books to their communities.

“Public libraries support learning for all, no matter our passions, our politics or our position in society” Geekthelibrary.org

For more information, please contact Geri Hutchins, Federal Programs/Grants Coordinator at 505-476-9727 or email geraldine.hutchins@state.nm.us, New Mexico State Library, 1209 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, NM 87507

In one day…

- 27,117 people walk through the doors of New Mexico public libraries
- 34,405 books, movies, CDs, and more are borrowed from New Mexico public libraries
- 6,828 people use computers at New Mexico public libraries
- 3,826 reference questions are answered at New Mexico public libraries
- 1,359 people are educated and entertained at programs at New Mexico public libraries

Needs vs. Resources

In 2010, the need for public library services continued to outpace available resources. Compared to 2009, revenue and the number of paid staff declined, while services and use of library resources continued to grow.

Connecting New Mexico

- According to a report by the Kauffman Foundation and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, the state ranks 41st in percentage of internet users, 44th in e-government, and 46th in broadband telecommunications.
- Public libraries continue to fill this gap by providing 1,427 public Internet computers used 2,096,089 times in 2010, an increase of 38% since 2006.
- 66.1% of libraries offer the only free access to computers and the Internet in their communities.

Internet speed improved in 2010. However, 21% of public library connections still do not meet the bare minimum speed of a T1 connection (1.5 Mbps)