In this issue:

- State Librarians’ report on broadband
- News from Truchas
- ILL holiday pause
- 2010 Online Library Science courses
- People notes
- JOBS - Librarian

BROADBAND FOR NM LIBRARIES

“Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.” - Annie Norman, State Librarian, Delaware

State Librarian’s Report, Susan Oberlander, December, 2009. This has been the year of the library! Public libraries are being called “instruments for recovery” in news stories as library usage goes up because of the economic downturn and patrons requiring increased access to employment information, continuing education, government resources, small business opportunities, and more. The federal government has targeted libraries, as “public computing centers,” to receive federal stimulus grants to upgrade their connectivity and equipment. In New Mexico, we are hopeful that, in 2010, we will begin to increase levels of connectivity for public libraries around the state since broadband connections are one of the critical elements that allow libraries to provide these essential resources to the public.

Public libraries are often the only source of Internet access in their community. In NM, 65% of the public libraries are the only place where community members can use free computers. This has led many library advocates to characterize libraries as early adopters of technologies where many people have their first experience with broadband. This, in turn, has
led to the assumption that libraries can be demand drivers for emerging technologies. While we may not think of public libraries as employing cutting edge technology, I think we could agree that it is true that public libraries introduce more people to the Internet and, hence, to the value of broadband, than any other single institution.

The value of the Internet services that public libraries provide is immense and comments from library customers show this:

- “The business web sites at the library have been an invaluable tool for me in my business research as well as the librarians that are there to answer any questions.”
- “I am 65, on Social Security Disability and can't afford computers, program upgrades and maintenance that the libraries offer to the public. Computers keep my mind active.”
- “The online library catalog allows me to search for books in my first language.”
- “Using the Internet, I found my older brother in England. We hadn't seen each other in almost 40 years.”
- “There has never been a problem that a library couldn't solve.”

While libraries are providing valuable Internet services to their customers, they are often at their capacity for connectivity. Only 38% of public libraries in NM report that they always have adequate connection speed. This can mean that some customers may not be able to get online at certain times of the day and that the online catalogs and circulation systems of the library may not operate at a real-time speed throughout the day. The American Library Association has recommended that all libraries consider fiber-based broadband. This is the most robust technology currently available in terms of capacity, flexibility to meet future needs and cost. As they say, “Fiber is the choice for the twenty-first century.”

Solving the library connectivity problem will involve two major decisions:

1. Determining the local options for broadband – These choices include telephone companies, cable companies, or Internet service providers. It may also include partnering in a city, county, or multi-type library network or contracting with a state research or educational network.

2. Determining how to finance the broadband – Costs include both the build-out and on-going costs. Two choices that exist today are e-rate or grants/loans from the federal broadband programs. Each choice has limitations and difficulties in terms of coverage and applying.

One piece of recommended reading on these questions is: “Fiber to the Library: How Public Libraries Can Benefit From Using Fiber Optics for the Broadband Internet Connection.” It can be found at: http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oitp/PDFs/fiber%20brief %20published.pdf

At the State Library, we have given much thought and energy to analyzing the statewide solutions for increased bandwidth and look forward to working with all interested libraries in the coming year. The State Library staff and I also wish you a productive New Year and send our hopes for another year in which libraries are stars!
BRIEFINGS

Send your news or stories that you would like to share with the library community to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us

News from Truchas. The Truchas Library has been awarded a grant for $1,000 from the New Mexico Library Foundation. The funds will be used to enhance the teen room, a carpet, two mitt chairs, and three round fun table tops for the teens to hang out and (hopefully) read. Julie Trujillo, the Truchas library director, expressed her thanks: “We are very grateful and hopeful for the difference this makes in our library.”

HH notes. The Hitchhiker is about you and your libraries. We depend on you to let us know what is going on at your libraries, and what you like or don’t like about the content of the newsletter. Please help by spreading the word that Hitchhiker is back, and by reminding others to send their email addresses so we can notify them each time a new issue is available. Send your news and announcements, and also new and corrected email addresses to robert.upton@state.nm.us

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send event and training announcements for the library community to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us

ILL holiday pause. Because most large lenders are closed and mail delivery slows down during the holidays, the New Mexico State Library’s Interlibrary Loan department will stop processing requests on Monday, December 21. The Department will resume processing on Monday, January 4. The ILL staff will be in the office during this time, so if you have any emergency requests or any ILL problems or questions, please contact (505) 476-9700 or 800-477-4401. Also, during this time ILL staff will be more than happy to send any materials that the State Library holds in its own collections.

2010 Online Library Science courses. Registration has started for online graduate and undergraduate courses in Library Science at New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College in Las Cruces. Sign up early so you don’t miss out. Several three credit courses, only eight weeks long, will be starting in January and March. All courses are available online. There are also several short, month-long one credit courses, with no text required.
Online courses being offered in the spring semester include:

16 week, 3 credit NMSU Upper Division/Graduate Course, accepted for the School Library Endorsement (Jan. 14 – May 7):

- EMD 412 M70 (CRN#17597), Administration of the School Library
- EMD 512 M70 (CRN#17596), Administration of the School Library

Three credit courses starting in January 14 – March 9:

- L SC 100 D01 (CRN#11969), Introduction to Library Careers
- L SC 110 D01, D02 (CRN#11982, 11983), Reference and Information Resources I
- L SC 111 D01, D02 (CRN#16976, 16977), Introduction to Information Literacy
- L SC 200 D01 (CRN#11995), Collection Management & Development in Libraries
- L SC 204 D01 (CRN#12006), Special Libraries and Information Centers
- L SC 220 D01 (CRN#12010), Innovative Technology Applications for Libraries
- L SC 270 D01 (CRN#12036), Library Science Capstone

Courses scheduled March 10 – May 7:

- L SC 100 D02, D03 (CRN#11977, 11980), Introduction to Library Careers
- L SC 111 D03–D07 (CRN#16978, 79, 80, 81, 82), Introduction to Information Literacy
- L SC 140 D01, D02 (CRN#11986, 11987), Multimedia Materials & Presentations in Libraries
- L SC 150 D01 (CRN#11991), Library Services for Children and Young Adults
- L SC 203 D01 (CRN#12000), School Library Media Specialist
- L SC 250 D01 (CRN#12035), Reference & Information Resources II
- L SC 275 D01 (CRN#12037), Fundamentals of Library Science Supervision

One credit courses starting in February, March and April:

- L SC 145 D01 (CRN#12091) Marketing Your Library (February 1-26)
- L SC 168 D01 (CRN#12098) Managing Library Volunteers (February 1-26)
- L SC 211 D01 (CRN#12104), Electronic Privacy (March 1-19)
- L SC 155 D01 (CRN#12094), Award Winning Books for Children (April 1-30)

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 one of three Certificates in Library Science. Additionally the program offers courses that fulfill state requirements for School Library Media Specialist Endorsement.

It’s easy to be admitted and enroll for these reasonably priced courses. Out-of-state students enrolling in six credits or less receive the in-state tuition rates! For further information about courses or degree options, go to the web site at [http://dacc.nmsu.edu/lsc](http://dacc.nmsu.edu/lsc) or contact: Susan Pinkerton at (575) 527-7567 or (800) 903-7503 ext. 7567 or email spinkert@nmsu.edu.
PEOPLE NOTES

Send announcements of new personnel, changes, achievements, and retirements in your library to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us

Vista Grande Public Library, the nonprofit public library serving southeastern Santa Fe County, is pleased to announce that Christina (‘Tina’) Stephenson has joined the library as the new director. Tina earned her Masters in Information Resources and Library Science (MLS) from the University of Arizona and has a Bachelor’s in Business Management from the University of New Mexico. She has work experience at the New Mexico State Library and the Fogelson Library at the College of Santa Fe. In addition, Tina has run her own business and managed a nonprofit bookstore. Tina has a combination of experience working with libraries, business, and education. She replaces Barbara Hagood, who left in September.

Nancy H. Quintana passed away on November 10, in Santa Fe, after a long illness. Nancy was appointed to the State Library Commission by Governor Gary Johnson and served until June, 2001. She was born in Columbus, NE in 1930 and moved with her mom, Effie Ann Morgan, to Long Beach, CA in 1939 after her father, Lawrence N. Herrod passed away. Nancy's older sister, Pat, remained in Columbus and married James Gregorius in 1941. Nancy loved life and travel, and had visited over 30 countries, beginning with a teaching job in Germany in 1955. Later, she and her husband Eddie Quintana traveled as often as they could, visiting Spain or Ecuador three times a year once retired. Nancy worked as a school teacher in Santa Fe for more than 36 years at Salazar Elementary, Tesuque Elementary, Santa Fe High and De Vargas Jr. High. After working for the school district, she had the opportunity to work on staff for Governor Garrey Carruthers as his scheduler. Nancy had many passions and was involved with numerous clubs in Santa Fe including: the Garden Club, the Gourmet Group, Sewing Club, multiple Bridge groups, the Mystery Book Club, the New Mexico Federated Republican Women, and the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Donations on Nancy’s behalf may be directed to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

JOBS

Send job announcements to the HH editor, Robert Upton, at robert.upton@state.nm.us. There is no charge for this service to the library community.

Librarian. The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center (UNM HSLIC) invites applications for the position of Information Services Librarian. This position is a creative opportunity for a service-oriented health sciences librarian to provide vision and technological leadership for public services operations in a complex and dynamic health sciences library. HSLIC has earned a reputation for providing excellent service to library users, and we actively seek to maintain that reputation. This is an excellent position for a
library/information science graduate who is facile with technology and who will be committed to improving HSLIC public services. The Information Services Librarian will manage HSLIC’s library public service operations by exploring, planning for, and implementing technological innovations to facilitate and improve library service delivery and service desk operations. The position requires an incumbent with curiosity and initiative to explore technological innovations to improve the public services operations. The position supervises four full-time staff, including the evening operations manager, and oversees supervision of 3-4 student employees. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are required to maintain communication channels with upper management and other library personnel in a team-oriented environment. Duties include participating in information desk and reference coverage at the library. The incumbent will also participate in scholarly activities consistent with expectations for a faculty member. This is a faculty position within Library Services and reports to the Coordinator of Reference and User Support Services (RUSS). It is a non-tenure track position with a primary appointment in the UNM School of Medicine. In addition to the above, duties include those expected of all HSLIC faculty, including teaching, committee service, strategic planning team work, information desk hours, literature searches, scholarly activities, and commitment for eventual credentialing in the Academy of Health Information Professionals. Appointment rank will be at the Lecturer II level. Salary range: $36,000-$40,000 based upon qualifications. Qualifications include a Graduate degree at time of hire in library or information science from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited institution; one year of relevant library experience at the professional or paraprofessional level; and ability to work weekends, some evenings and on holiday rotations. Preferred qualifications and abilities include experience in the creative use of computer and communications technologies particularly in the delivery of library services and implementation of technological innovations; experience in working in library public services such as reference, circulation, or public computing; experience in providing health science information to users, especially using online databases such as PubMed® and other National Library of Medicine® products; supervisory experience in a library or other setting; excellent written communication skills as demonstrated in the required writing sample; subject knowledge in the sciences related to medicine. Application materials must include a letter of interest addressing required and preferred qualifications; a complete C.V.; a writing sample such as a publication or professional report; and contact information for three professional references. For complete details of this position and to apply, access Faculty Postings at https://unmjobs.unm.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1260383987976 or contact search coordinator Marcia Sletten msletten@salud.unm.edu (505-272-8687). Materials must be received no later than January 15, 2010, for best consideration. This position will remain open until filled. The University of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and Educator. UNM’s confidentiality policy (“Disclosure of Information about Candidates for Employment,” UNM Board of Regents’ Policy Manual 6.7) which includes information about public disclosure of documents submitted by applicants, is located at http://www.unm.edu/~brpm/r67.htm.