A FUTURE FOR RESOURCE SHARING

The New Mexico State Library’s Resource Sharing Team (RST) has been given responsibility for the establishment of a statewide resource sharing program. This project will take some time to plan, develop, and implement. At this early stage, it appears that a two-tiered approach will be necessary. Part of the project (Tier One) will rely on an open source software solution to provide for the creation of public library consortia throughout the state, and part (Tier Two) will rely on a proprietary software solution.

Many of our smaller public libraries do not have an automated system, and the cost of a proprietary solution is too expensive. To meet the needs of these libraries, the State Library has formed the RST. Members of the RST (representing all 3 bureaus and IT) are looking at a hosted, open source based solution. Open source library automation software (KOHA) is currently being installed and tested on servers at the State Library. Once the software has been thoroughly tested, the RST will begin to seek out public libraries interested in forming small, regionally based consortia. Joining the consortium will bring several benefits to the libraries involved. For the first time, in some cases, small rural public libraries will be able to create MARC records for their collections, circulate their materials online, and present an online catalog to their patrons. Training on the new software will be facilitated by State Library staff and the RST. As consortia of this type begin to proliferate throughout the state, we will see the beginnings of our resource sharing vision for all of New Mexico’s public libraries, and at the same time, libraries will experience the rich and rewarding experience of working together toward the common goals of cooperation and collaboration, absolute necessities for a successful resource sharing environment.

At the same time, the New Mexico State Library is looking at a proprietary software solution for the replacement of its current SALSA catalog. SALSA ((System Access to Libraries in State Agencies) is running a version of the HORIZON integrated library system software provided by SirsiDynix and provides automated library system services to Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) libraries and the Office of the State Engineer Library. Once a decision has been made regarding SALSA, procurement of the new software, installation and implementation, training, and discussion of issues dealing with governance and standards for the members of SALSA will begin. The new SALSA consortium (Tier Two), along with the consortia (Tier One) mentioned above will be working together with public and other New Mexico libraries to plant the seeds necessary for the realization of a Common Library Platform (CLP) and Union Catalog for statewide resource sharing.

Two other components are vital to the development and growth of a statewide resource sharing program, 1) training and 2) delivery of materials. The State Library will be busy in both of these areas. State Library staff and the RST will develop training materials and programs that
will be available both onsite and online. Eventually, a library of training materials, user guides, tutorials and other learning aids will be made available via a web interface. Public library staff and staff at other participating libraries will be able to contact State Library staff for one-on-one assistance. As libraries join together and begin to share materials, there must be a way for each library to send and receive materials requested by their patrons. The RST will be investigating options for delivery/courier services for public libraries participating in the statewide resource sharing effort.

As we move toward a statewide resource sharing program for New Mexico’s libraries, traditional interlibrary loan (ILL) will change. As more materials become available to libraries and patrons through the union catalog, traditional ILL becomes more focused on document delivery (articles) rather than monographs. The State Library is committed to providing traditional ILL services until such time that a statewide union catalog is realized, and even with the union catalog in place, traditional ILL services will continue to be available for items not available using other means.

There are public libraries in New Mexico that currently have an automated system; they have created electronic records and established online catalogs. These libraries are in the unique position of forming resource sharing consortia now, but some may be wondering exactly how to go about it. The first step in the process for these libraries is to meet and discuss the opportunities, commit to working together, and begin the planning process. The State Library is prepared to help in this endeavor.

The creation of a statewide resource sharing program and development of a Common Library Platform (CLP) for New Mexico’s public libraries is a bold initiative. The planning for the program is underway, but it will take many months to develop a strategy for implementation. Ongoing funding for the project and all of its components is critical. Reliable network connectivity to the systems we create and maintain is a necessity. A delivery service dedicated to the resource sharing effort must be in place and be adequately funded to support the movement of library materials throughout the state. An ongoing training program will be developed, and perhaps a CLP help desk might be established.

State library staff members are dedicated individuals who are prepared to start working toward these goals. New Mexico’s library community will play a significant role in the resource sharing initiative. For instance, libraries will meet and work through governance issues for their consortia, discuss funding sources, create standards for staff and patrons, and many other things. The State Library, working in concert with New Mexico’s libraries, is prepared to help in all of these areas. No one can know what the future of resource sharing in New Mexico will be like, but with good planning, cooperation and collaboration, the future looks bright.

-report by Gary L. Harris, Technical Services Director; contact him at (505) 476-9730, gary.harris@state.nm.us for more information

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.
A Library in your mailbox! The New Mexico State Library’s Rural Services offers library materials to unserved populations of our large, rural state. Bookmobiles make regular, scheduled stops in places with no libraries of their own. But, as they say, “That’s not all!” There’s Books by Mail.

Books by Mail (BBM) is a free book lending service for rural or homebound residents of New Mexico where other forms of library services are not available. Operated entirely through the U.S. Postal Service, BBM uses a mail-order catalog, updated quarterly with new titles, that lists a variety of fiction and non-fiction paperback books. Households registered with the Books by Mail service order their choices from the catalog by mail, phone, or email. They receive the materials at their mailing address and return them the same way within the six week check-out period (renewals are easily accomplished). No library card is needed and postage is paid by the program both ways. The program is funded with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which administers the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

If you or your library would like to expand your library service through the use of the Book by Mail program, contact Teresa Martinez, email teresa.martinez1@state.nm.us or Veronica Tapia, email veronica.tapia@state.nm.us. A toll-free number is available as well: 1-800-395-9144.

**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.

**Patent and trademark seminar.** The United States Patent and Trademark Office, UNM University Libraries, and the New Mexico State Library are holding a free Patent and Trademark Workshop for librarians. The workshop will be held at the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe on Thursday, February 28. Registration is limited to 19 participants. The seminar to be held at the University of New Mexico on Wednesday, February 27 is open to the general public as well. It will be held in Zimmerman Library’s Willard Reading Room on the first floor. Visitor parking is available for a fee. Speakers from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office will provide a free, all-day seminar on researching patent and trademark information. This seminar is intended for anyone who has an interest in patents and trademarks, from the independent inventor to the legal professional. Learn the basics of intellectual property protection, patent searching, and how to avoid scam artists.

For more details and registration, see [http://elibrary.unm.edu/csel/handouts/public.pdf](http://elibrary.unm.edu/csel/handouts/public.pdf) or call (505) 277-5632.
The Big Read. All New Mexico youth services librarians are invited to read the same book this winter and join in the ongoing online discussions. The book is Markus Zusak’s The Book Thief.

Set in Nazi Germany, The Book Thief follows a young girl who develops a strong love of reading – and of stealing books. The narrator, Death itself, provides a fascinating viewpoint. The book has a lot to offer youth services librarians – the opportunity to discuss a powerful YA novel, of course, but also to examine the timely issues of intellectual freedom, fostering the love of reading in children, and more. Readers planning to attend the NMLA Conference in Las Cruces this April will have the chance to come to the Big Read session for an in-person conversation about this award-winning YA novel.

The Big Read is for all New Mexico youth services library staff – public, tribal, and school – so please join us for a lively and informative ongoing discussion. For more information about the program and book and to join in the discussion, go to http://www.seedwiki.com/wiki/nmsl_ys_wiki/big_read?wikiPageId=1327480 (you do not need to have an account or log on to post comments). Contact Beth Crist, the State Library’s Youth Services Consultant, with questions at (505) 476-9753 or beth.crist@state.nm.us.

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.

The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System is welcoming the following new librarians: Leigh Esquerra, Natasha Czapszys, Barbara Walton, and Kathy Hunt. Additionally, Ellanie Sampson is rejoining the Albuquerque Public staff. Eileen O’Connell was recently promoted to be the manager of the San Pedro Library. Michael Bernard, who moved from Israel to New Mexico, now is a cataloger in the Technical Services Department. Ida Mazzoni, formerly manager of the Main Library, now is an Assistant Director. New to the system is Assistant Director Dean Smith. Dean formerly worked for the New York Public Library System and Southwark Libraries in London, UK.

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.

Cataloger. The Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, which is part of the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe, seeks an innovative, experienced, and user-oriented professional to fill the position of Senior Cataloger (Librarian-A). The incumbent independently performs original and copy cataloging of the Library’s acquisitions in all formats to make them accessible to patrons. Develops and maintains the library’s OPAC databases and is responsible to direct volunteers in the technical area. Required qualifications for this position are a Master’s of Library Science from an ALA accredited institution (please enter your education level on the
Education and Work Experience page of the application even when submitting a resume) and four (4) years of library cataloging experience. Incumbent must be familiar with AACR II cataloging rules, LC and MARC formats. The Library is strongly committed to diversity, and seeks candidates who will contribute creatively to the organization’s multicultural environment. Knowledge of New Mexico/Southwest History and Culture and familiarity with the Spanish language are desirable. Familiarity with HTML/XML is preferred. This is a library environment which generates a certain amount of dust. The majority of work is performed at a computer monitor; plus lifting 20 lbs., moving of boxes, climbing stairs. Occasional evening and/or weekend work. Must have a valid driver’s license. The recruitment period for this position is January 23 to February 6. For more information and to apply online, please go to http://www.spo.state.nm.us (on or after January 21), click on APPLY ONLINE, and in the keyword field enter <Librarian-A>.

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