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VISITING LIBRARIES

Tucumcari. In the Opinion Section of its May issue, *American Libraries* has a piece called "How the World Sees Us." It contains a comment – a particularly disturbing one – in news relating to libraries. The comment points out that with Google no one does serious research in libraries anymore. Librarians know the limits of Google, know that serious researchers come to the library, and know that libraries are wonderfully diverse places where whole communities are served from the youngest who go to story time to elders learning about new technologies.

Where is this going? When the State Library's State Documents team made a visit to Library Director Mary Ann Molinas and her staff on April 30, they saw the proof that, whatever some people may think about libraries being obsolete, it isn't true in Tucumcari.

The team was very impressed with the Tucumcari Public Library, with the friendly staff who go all out to decorate the children's area, the bright interior, comfy furniture, the great safe and rare book collection, and most of all, the community support behind this library.

It's well known among librarians that the library should be the center of a community and this is truly the case in Tucumcari. When the team makes these visits they like to see the treasures, the interesting collections, unusual art or architecture, the things that people outside of the library may not be aware of but should be. In this case there is a great vault filled with old and fascinating volumes from tiny books of poetry to large biographies of sailors. The collection has been inventoried by volunteers. Yes, it is a wonderful collection with old leather covers but it is the volunteer workers who are the real treasures. The team saw fantastic paper mache lady bugs and colorful caterpillars. The local Masonic lodge donated bikes, scooters, skate boards, and helmets for reading prizes. There is a display case regularly filled with local art, paintings, photos, posters, and those lovely red leather chairs and a couch all from the community. One hot day at the big end-of-the summer reading program party, a local business donated dollar coins

for a treasure hunt in donated sand, the local fire department kept the kids cool, and there was a whole box full of kites just waiting for kids to fly them. The people of Tucumcari love their library, they eagerly anticipate the next program, they go above and beyond to support the programs, and that is a treasure beyond measure.



If you are in the area stop by and check out the Tucumcari Library. Their hours are Monday 9:30 - 7; Tuesday – Friday 9:30 - 5:30; and Saturday 9 – 1. Phone (575) 461-0295.

Questa Public Library. New Mexico State Library’s Development Bureau staff recently visited the new Questa Public Library that opened in January with Carolyn Anderson as director. Support from the village and the community made the bright, inviting library possible. The building, computers, furniture, and most of the collection were donated; they have since received a Libri Foundation grant to purchase children’s books. The library has been enjoying a strong turnout despite a harsh winter. Many residents are drawn to the library to use the wireless Internet access supplied by the village and available on the two public access computers; storytime programs are also popular. To learn more about the library and its director, listen to the Librarian Live podcast interview with Carolyn Anderson; go to <http://www.ntrls2.org/default.asp?action=article&ID=263> and scroll to Episode #40.

Archaeology at Taos Public Library. On May 17, over 75 people of all ages observed artifacts from across New Mexico and learned about the archaeology of the state at the Taos Public Library. Chuck Hannaford from the Office of Archaeological Studies, part of the Department of Cultural Affairs, brought real and replica artifacts to the library, using them to teach visitors about archaeology and the state’s past. Visitors saw items representing the Paleo-indian period through the early 1900s. One of the favorite items was the atlatl, or spear thrower. Hannaford demonstrated how the useful tool allows a hunter to throw a spear much farther than he could without it. He explained how he made the replica atlatl and spear and has practiced with them,

and how archaeologists learn a great deal about past cultures by doing such experimental archaeology themselves. The successful program lasted all day as library patrons dropped in to learn and observe, some staying over an hour. Many thanks to Chuck Hannaford and the Office of Archaeological Studies for bringing this program to the Taos Public Library.



Chuck Hannaford holds a pot for visitors learning about the archaeology of New Mexico.

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

Applebee's and Summer Reading in NM. Children across New Mexico will be reading a lot at their local public libraries and eating well this summer. Through the generosity of Applebee's Restaurants, children in and near nine cities in New Mexico will receive Applebee's gift certificates for participating in the annual summer reading program at their libraries.

Applebee's will support 17 libraries that are in or near the nine participating restaurants in the state, located in Alamogordo, Clovis, Farmington, Gallup, Hobbs, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Santa Fe and Taos. The restaurants will provide the libraries with a total of 3,000 certificates for free Kid's Meal for children and 820 certificates for free Dessert Shooters for teens, worth \$13,491.

The restaurant chain has a commitment to support local communities. "Being a part of the neighborhood is what we're all about," said Barry Jenkins, General Manager of the Santa Fe Applebee's. "And supporting the education of our youth is at the core of our community programs, so we are thrilled to be able to provide incentives for children to read this summer!"

Public libraries across the state and nation provide summer reading programs for their young patrons, from infants through teens. The programs vary, but all encourage children to read for pleasure during the summer. Programs also promote families reading together. Many libraries

provide incentives, such as the Applebee's certificates, to encourage and reward children for reading.

Is New Mexico tri-racial or tri-cultural? The State Library's Reference Bureau answered an interesting question about who New Mexicans are. Demographic questions on New Mexico such as the number or a particular racial or ethnic group come up frequently, and this question asked if New Mexico was a tri-racial state with a Hispanic majority (the population being made up of three major groups). The requestee had checked the U.S. Census site and read the basic statistic which stated that 67.8 percent of the population in New Mexico is White. The reason for this high percentage is in part because the federal designation Hispanic refers to origin – not race, and Hispanics include individuals of any race. The percentage shown in the census for “White” includes White Hispanics. A more culturally accurate picture can be found in the census Narrative Profile which lists 42 percent of New Mexicans are non-Hispanic white, 44 percent are Hispanic, 10 percent are Native American, two percent black, and one percent Asian. So the majority of New Mexicans would be Hispanic. The 10 percent Native American population may not seem like much, but New Mexico ranks #2 in native population. The only state with a larger percentage of Native Americans is Alaska which has about 13 percent. You can say New Mexico is a tri-cultural state with the majorities being Hispanic, White, and Native American.

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

Library of Congress traveling exhibition for small rural libraries. The Library of Congress is planning to send a traveling exhibition to approximately 120 small rural libraries with active public libraries that are not close to a major population center. The exhibition will be sent at no cost to the library. They are looking for help from Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) members to identify potential sites.

As a COSLA member, the New Mexico State Library welcomes interested New Mexico public libraries to contact us. The traveling exhibition, featuring facsimiles of American and World Treasures of the Library of Congress, is actually based on two very popular on-site

exhibitions that LC has had for a number of years: “American Treasures of the Library of Congress” and “World Treasures of the Library of Congress.” They included extraordinary items from the collections that have broad appeal for the American public. The traveling exhibition would draw upon those exhibitions, would be easy to put up and take down, and would be designed to accommodate the space limitations in small libraries (minimal square footage needed).

If you are interested, please call the State Library’s contact person: Renee Payne, (505) 476-9728 or renee.payne@state.nm.us by Friday, June 6. The exhibition is being funded through the generosity of the Rapoport Foundation.

Training workshop. The New Mexico State Library is offering a training session on digital government resources on Thursday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Socorro. This workshop focuses on the use of electronic government information to answer reference questions. The session will walk you through Government Information for the 21st Century, a new community on WebJunction that provides training and resources on a variety of topics frequently encountered by public service librarians including an overview of digital government resources as well as government resources on citizenship and immigration, children, renewable energy, and health.

Stipends (\$50 per attendee) are available to all workshop attendees. Similar training sessions will be held in other parts of the state in the near future. Individuals who attend more than one training session at different locations are eligible for more than one stipend. Lunch will be on your own. Please register by June 5. Registration is limited to 18 participants. Please contact Beth Crist, beth.crist@state.nm.us or 800-340-3890, with questions and to register.

The Government Information in the 21st Century Program is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Additional support is provided by the University of Colorado at Boulder as well as Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records; New Mexico State Library; Wyoming State Library; and University of Utah.

Your electronic databases. The New Mexico State Library is working on several projects involving electronic information databases. Some public librarians have asked the State Library to develop a list of the electronic resources the libraries in New Mexico are already providing. Ultimately, this list will appear on the State Library web site. It will only indicate the library’s name and the database name. The information will include the following:

- name of database,
- company which provides the database,
- start up cost (if any) and
- annual renewal fee.

It is not necessary to list all of the Gale databases that the State Library provides through *Magazines Online*. Linda Harris, Reference Services Manager at the New Mexico State Library, would like information about the fees for another project that will be announced in a separate e-mail. The costs will be kept confidential. Send your library’s information to Linda at Linda.Harris@state.nm.us or (505) 476-9763.

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

David Baldwin has been named Associate Dean of the New Mexico State University Library. He will begin work by July 1. Most recently, Baldwin was the Associate Dean for Reference and Instruction at Iowa State University. He has also worked at the University of New Mexico Libraries as the director of administrative services, the director of the Fine Arts Library, and the director of Zimmerman Library. Baldwin's most recent book is The Complete Guide for Supervisors of Student Employees in Today's Academic Libraries (2007), co-authored with Daniel Barkley, and he has published several other books on library human resource management. He received his Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Iowa in 1974. Library Dean Elizabeth Titus said, "I am delighted that David Baldwin will be joining the NMSU Library. He is an experienced and accomplished administrator. Both he and his wife are excited about becoming part of the NMSU and Las Cruces community."

Fred Barraza, with a 25-year career at Bookmobile Southwest in Silver City, has retired from the New Mexico State Library. He is accepting a new position as the director for home care services for Grant County Senior Services and will continue with his 30-year art career. He will have an art opening on June 14 at the JW Art Gallery in Hurley featuring new paintings and samples of print making and etchings.

Robert Forman, the Continuing Education Coordinator with the New Mexico State Library's Development Services Bureau, has resigned from the State Library to accept a job in the private sector. His last day was May 23. In his year at the Library, he provided E-rate and general consulting to public libraries, managed the librarian certification program, assisted with the Library's resource sharing initiative, and helped with the Library's new website.

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.

Library assistant. Information International Associates, Inc. is recruiting for a full-time Library Assistant at the Air Force Research Laboratory Phillips Research Site on Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The position requires a strong customer service attitude, team work, and attention to

detail. Responsibilities include copy cataloging for new materials; processing new materials for shelf-ready access and repairing older items; assisting with interlibrary loan and document delivery; handling circulation activities including patron registrations, item checkouts/returns, shelving materials, checking in journals, and identifying missing issues; and providing basic library information to onsite users including helping them use computers, photocopiers, microfilm machines, and answering telephone inquires about the library. Required qualifications are good computer skills; ability to lift 50 pounds; and must be able to obtain a DoD Secret Clearance. Desirable qualifications include a familiarity with Microsoft Office Suite; experience with OCLC and automated library systems; and prior library experience and coursework. Please go to www.iiaweb.com for online application, related forms, and instructions for applying. Submit electronically to: Martha Wallus, Director of Administration Information International Associates, Inc. E-mail: mwallus@iiaweb.com. IIA is an EEO/AA employer

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