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New Mexico Representative MPLA Board Report

State Aid for Public Libraries House Bill 185, introduced by Rep. Danice Picraux is currently making its rounds through the legislature. Full approval of the bill would change New Mexico's state aid to public libraries from \$350,000 to \$1.6 million.

Funding for Tribal Library Programs Two bills, Senate Bill 654 and Senate Bill 658, have been introduced by Senator Leonard Tsosie. SB 654 makes an appropriation of \$95,500 for the State Library's Tribal Libraries program for cultural preservation activities and other programming. SB 658 \$100,000 from the general fund to the Cultural Affairs Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2006 and subsequent fiscal years for the State Library's expansion of permanent funding for the Tribal Libraries Program.

New Website Unveiled Telling the Stories is a new web site for the Native American communities in New Mexico to communicate information in written, spoken, and visual formats in their own languages. Developed by the New Mexico State Library's Tribal Libraries Program through a grant to the Indigenous Language Institute in Santa Fe, Telling the Stories is intended to contribute to the preservation of New Mexico's Native American language and culture by providing links to resources, tools, and educational opportunities that are available to assist Native American communities to language and cultural preservation programs.

New Mexico Library Association Conference The annual conference, "Libraries Lend a Hand," will take place in Albuquerque on March 30th - April 1st. Highlights include an exhibit held at the Albuquerque Museum, "From Goodnight Moon to Art Dog: The World of Clement, Edith and Thacher Hurd;" Keynote Speaker Marilyn Mason from WebJunction OCLC, and Lt. Gov. Diane Denish speaking at the awards dinner. For more information visit: http://www.unm.edu/~osterloh/nmla_conference/home.htm

New Mexico Library Foundation Has a New Mission "The New Mexico Library Foundation will support identified needs of New Mexico libraries. We will do this by providing grants to libraries to build and maintain their collections, update information access technology and enhance library programs." In order to meet the goals of the new mission, the Foundation wants to create small grants for all types of libraries in New Mexico that can be directed toward specific projects. In order to ensure grant money is available, the Foundation is fund-raising to build a reserve program to ensure a predictable source of money for library grant programs. The Foundation's goal is to create a \$50,000 endowment by drawing on donations from the general public and library community. The Foundation also has a brand new website: <http://www.nm-lf.org/index.htm>.

Submitted by Valerie Nye