

## **MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REPORT FROM NEW MEXICO**

**APRIL 8, 2000**

### **Tribal Libraries Receive Gates / Athena Grant**

Eleven New Mexico tribal libraries will receive individual grants to build and maintain an online catalog using Athena software (a library automation software product from Sage brush Technologies of Austin, Texas) through a collaborative project from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the New Mexico State Library Tribal Libraries Program. The Gates Foundation is providing the necessary workstations and servers for each library and the New Mexico State Library Tribal Libraries Program will share the cost of the software.

A third partner, the Santa Fe Indian School, is working with the Gates Foundation to train Indian School students in network administration and the use of Athena for cataloging collections and networking workstations.

### **University of New Mexico Libraries**

The university ranks 55 out of 111 university libraries in the recently released Association of Research Libraries (ARL) ranking for the year 1998-99. The criteria for this award includes: volumes held, volumes added (gross), current rankings serials, total library expenditures, and total professional plus support staff.

### **NEW MEXICO STATE LIBRARY PROMOTING "THE MONTH OF THE LIBRARY" STATEWIDE**

"Your Library - a Community Treasure" is the slogan and Edward Gonzales, the illustrator for the children's book *Farolitos for Abuelo*, has been commissioned to paint a picture of a library setting. The painting will be reproduced in high quality posters and bookmarks to be given to every library in the state.

Albuquerque Mayor Jim Baca has proclaimed April to be National Library Month in Albuquerque to remind city residents that libraries are necessary information centers for their communities. "Our libraries offer tremendous opportunities to learn and explore for all populations in our community," he said in his statement. Albuquerque follows the leadership of Governor Gary Johnson, who proclaimed the month of April as New Mexico's Month of the Library and joins other New Mexico cities, such as Santa Fe in commemorating the importance of libraries to their communities.

## **"NEW MEXICO'S LIBRARY LEGACY" EXHIBIT**

Librarians and library friends groups who submitted their library histories to Linda G. Harris saw the cumulative outcome in Linda's book, *One Book at a Time. The history of the library in New Mexico*", published by the NM Library Foundation to commemorate NMLA's 75th anniversary .

That effort has gone one step further in the form of an attractive traveling exhibit and public program package available to all libraries in the state under the title "New Mexico's Library Legacy".

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

The Native American legislation charged the State Library Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs with the responsibility for establishing a tribal libraries endowment fund for the purpose of establishing, developing and administering tribal libraries in New Mexico. More specifically, monies from the new endowment fund would pay for reading programs, after school tutoring, computers, internet service and book purchases.

The governor's response was "While these purposes are meritorious, these tribal library needs may be better met through the existing state library budget and via existing state library commission duties. Through close coordination with tribal libraries, local schools and private companies, I am confident the state librarian can accomplish the goals of this legislation without the creation of another earmarked fund."

The Legislature passed a memorial noting the work of the Task Force on School Libraries and asks the New Mexico State Library to conduct a study of school library conditions in conjunction with the State Department of Education.

The New Mexico State Library budget has an additional \$200,000 in its capital outlay line item, giving the agency a book/media budget close to the current year's budget. The total is still about \$50,000 short of the current year's budget. The governor has not signed this yet.

## **NEW MEXICO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

This will be held April 26 - 29, 2000 in Taos. There will be 35 programs, numerous meetings, events. Currently there are 323 registered and 58 exhibitors. This promises to be a great conference.

One program that might be of interest to MPLA is Gate's first state focus group. They plan to do this in other states as well. Here is the description:

*Gates Library Program Training Focus Group / Training staff from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will be facilitating this session.*

This focus group session will provide the Gates Library Program training staff with feedback on its training services. We're looking for staff from New Mexico public libraries who participated in the training offered as part of the Gates Library Program. Did you attend training sessions at your library or another library in your region? Do you use the curriculum and publications (Quick Guides, Librarian's Desk Reference, User Education Guide) included with the grant? Did you fly to Seattle for the week-long training and technology classes? Please join us for a directed discussion that will allow you to hear about the training experiences of other library staff and allow us to compile valuable feedback to improve our training programs. Invitations were sent for this session in order to determine an approximate number of participants. If you did not receive an invitation to this session and are interested in attending, please email Mary Stillwell at [mary@gatesfoundation.org](mailto:mary@gatesfoundation.org).

