

ST-7

New Mexico Library Association

REPORT FOR THE MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

NEW MEXICO TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL LIBRARIES

In February of this year, State Librarian Ben Wakashige asked leaders in the education and library profession to come together to create a task force to discuss the status of libraries in New Mexico's schools. Members of the New Mexico Task Force on School Libraries have concluded that a survey of all public schools was the first step in determining what is needed to improve all school libraries. The survey will assess staffing, training needs, technology and facilities, and funding for materials. The survey is being sent to all public schools to collect information on the current status of libraries and media centers.

Using these findings, the New Mexico Task Force on School Libraries hopes to address the large issue of better education in New Mexico. Information from the survey will be used by the State Department of Education, the New Mexico State Library, the New Mexico Library Association, and the New Mexico Legislature to establish a profile for the current state of school libraries in New Mexico.

The survey is available on the State Library web site at <http://www.stlib.state.nm.us/devlp-prog.info/youth.html/>

MENTOR LIBRARIES

A mentoring program for small libraries has been implemented by the New Mexico State Library. It is a concept that came out of the Library Leaders Institute held in Santa Fe last year. It is for leading libraries to teach key library operations to smaller libraries. Participants this year are libraries with both developing and full public library status.

Mentoring grants from the State Library will be used to cover expenses for a week for travel, room, and board. Participants from the mentee library will visit the host library, or the mentoring librarians will go to the mentee library to conduct hands-on training. Although basic library operations skills will focus on library skills training, each mentor may also invite the mentee to attend a meeting with a local public service club that supports library activities. Mentees may also be invited to attend a staff meeting, a Library Board meeting, or make some other contact outside the library.

NEW MEXICO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION "DOINGS"

We have been working on a long range strategic plan that involves moving from an Administrative Assistant position to an Executive Director position over time. I had posted a request to the MPLA e-list asking about what was going on in other states and received no response from any of the states. So I would like to request that information again. We would also like to know about the dues structure and benefits of membership in other states. Please send any information to me at cgreen2224@aol.com.

We are currently working on guidelines for our e-list. We would appreciate any input from other states that have done this.

Submitted by Charlene Greenwood