



NMSU Library Newsletter

Citations

Library a Partner in \$450,000 Humanities Challenge Grant Award

As reported in the January 1998 *Citations*, the NMSU Library and the University Museum joined with NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences to submit a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant Program for the establishment of a Southwest and Border Cultures Institute on the NMSU campus. The proposal — the brainchild of **Scott Rushforth** of NMSU's Department of Sociology and Anthropology — was successful, and the \$450,000 grant was awarded to NMSU in November 1998.

According to **Reed Dasenbrock**, Director of the Arts and Sciences Research Center and project director, and **Cynthia Hoffmann**, project development officer, the Institute will promote humanities research, education, and outreach, with special emphasis on understanding and maintaining the unique multicultural heritage of our region. The Institute will bring together the Library, the Museum, and several Arts and Sciences departments for a broad, interdisciplinary focus on how Native American, Hispanic, Anglo, and other cultures have converged in the

border Southwest. No funds will be used for construction.

In order to make the Institute a reality, the Library and its partners are committed to meeting the challenge of matching the NEH funding 3 to 1 by October 31, 2002, with \$1,350,000 in nonfederal funds to establish an endowment of \$1,800,000 for the Institute's ongoing support. The \$450,000 NEH award includes \$75,000 for the Library, which must be matched with \$225,000 to establish a \$300,000 endowed fund for Library acquisitions. \$15,000 in earnings will be available annually from the Library Acquisitions Fund in mini-grants to researchers for the purchase of materials to support humanities research and outreach activities in Southwest and border cultures.

Library, Museum, and Arts and Sciences faculty and staff are working to meet the match through activities such as phonathons, mailings, programs, events, additional grant proposals,

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In an interview in the September 1998 issue of American Libraries, NEH Chairman William Ferris states that he "sees funding for libraries on the rise."

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NEH...

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giving opportunities, and legislative initiatives. Your help is needed to help the Library meet its goal of \$225,000 over three years.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support a large library project that will make a real difference in the study of Southwest and border humanities and serve as a national model for other humanities programs. The award is one of only ten challenge grants given by the NEH to U.S. colleges and universities in 1998 and was the largest such award, along with two others given to the University of Notre Dame and the University of Nebraska. It is also one of the largest grants for research in the humanities and social sciences ever received at NMSU.

Thanks to the Library's loyal friends and donors, the Library has built a respected program of humanities acquisitions, outreach, and research services, which will blend seamlessly with the activities of the Institute. Its Special Collections unit includes classic works on Southwest and border history and literature, a Southwestern children's book collection, and a Western women's collection. The Rio Grande Historical Collections contains millions of pages of primary historical source material, including letters, photographs, catalogs, and records from the Southwestern U.S. and Northern Mexico. The Library's new Borderlands Collection contains collections of Latin American materials, notably literature, many of which cannot be found in other U.S. libraries.

Future acquisitions for these collections, made possible by the Southwest Border Cultures Institute Endowed Fund for Library Acquisitions, will provide more unique and pertinent resources to support Southwest and border humanities research in this region. In addition, outreach or "humanities extension" activities such as lectures, exhibitions, reference and research services, and an Institute web page will enhance the Library's partnership with humanities scholars in bringing our Southwestern and border heritage and cultures to the people of New Mexico. For more information on this exciting opportunity, please contact **Jeanette Smith** at 646-7492.

Here's How You Can Help Build the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute Fund for Library Acquisitions

clip and send

clip and send

Yes! I want to support the NMSU Library's participation in the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute (SBCI) with a generous donation to fund 89013, the SBCI/NEH Endowed Fund for Library Acquisitions.

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip code:

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR:

_____ \$1,000 _____ \$500
_____ \$250 _____ \$100
_____ \$50 _____ \$Other

Please make your check payable to the **NMSU Foundation**, and mail to:

Barbara Hart, Administrative Office, NMSU Library
P.O. Box 30006, MSC 3475, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006.

A gift of \$100 entitles you to membership in the Mil Gracias Society, a gift of \$500 entitles you to membership as a Mil Gracias Investor, and a gift of \$1,000 or more entitles you to membership in the President's Associates. Thank you so much for your support!



Citations
NMSU Library Newsletter

Editor: Jeanette Smith, jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu
Editorial Board: Noemy Melendez, Mike Mitchell,
Charles Townley. Published three times a year.
<http://lib.nmsu.edu/aboutlib/newsletter/choice.html>

The Library received an \$8,500 grant from the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board for improving finding aids for selected agriculture-related manuscript collections. Archivists **Austin Hoover** and **Marah deMeule** will supervise the project. Another Archives project was awarded \$3,000 by the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Heritage grants-in-aid program. **Patricia Steeb** will supervise the deacidification of the Amador Family Letters of the Rio Grande Historical Collections.

Cheryl Wilson, the Head of Special Collections and **Mark Allan** of New Library Reference will coordinate a series of public presentations on "Celebrating Our Southwest/Border Culture." The programs are made possible by a \$2,000 grant from the Facts on File grant program of the American Library Association.

The Library will receive \$2,000 in seed money from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to participate in conducting a survey of resources in border water issues. The funding comes from a grant awarded to **Dr. Jose Garcia** of the Center for Latin American Studies.

Library Receives Gifts for Engineering Resources

The Library recently received two generous donations for the purchase of library materials in the field of engineering. A \$5,000 grant was received from the McKee Foundation of El Paso. The Foundation has previously provided support for the acquisition of library materials in the areas of engineering and Southwestern literature. The Library also received a gift of \$5,000 from an NMSU faculty member for library book purchases. These gifts are sincerely appreciated. With the support of donors such as the **McKee family** and members of our campus community, the Library is better positioned to meet the information needs of NMSU's faculty, students, and community.

A first edition of *Seven Little Stories on Big Subjects* by Gladys Baker Bond, and illustrated by Maurice Sendak for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (1955), recently came to light at the Library. **John Freyermuth** of Collection Services found the first edition, worth approximately \$1,000, listed on the Internet's Bookfinder page. The book had been sitting on a "problem" shelf.

Many Library staff members assisted **David Pengeley** and **Reinhard Laubenbacher** of the NMSU Math Department in their research for a book of annotated original historical sources in mathematics. *Mathematical Expeditions: Chronicles by the Explorers* is now available from Springer Verlag.

Building on the success of delivery programs between the NMSU main campus libraries and those at NMSU-Alamogordo and Dona Ana Branch, the Library announces expansion of the programs to include Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. The program, currently in a trial phase, provides for deliveries to Branigan twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Fridays. NMSU Library Reference staff can assist patrons in selecting items from Branigan's online catalog, CHILE. Books borrowed from Branigan will be delivered to NMSU's Branson Library Circulation Desk for pickup and may be borrowed for three weeks with no renewals. Media items will circulate for one week only. For details, please contact the Branson Library Circulation Desk at 646-3101.

E-Res Corner Debuts

The Circulation Unit is proud to announce the opening of the Electronic Reserve (E-Res) Corner. Located in Room 149 of New Library (the former Interlibrary Loan Office), the room now features five workstations that will facilitate improved use of the electronic reserve collection. One station is outfitted with a CD-ROM tower that will permit usage of reserve items in CD-ROM format. The stations are networked with the Reference area laser printer, and some feature additional software not previously available in the Library, such as word processing and spreadsheet applications. The room will be open all hours that the Library is open and Circulation staff will be available to provide assistance. Similar workstations will be installed in the Branson Library Circulation area shortly. For information, please contact the Circulation Desk in New Library at 646-6910.



Laura Chen (left) cuts the cake at her retirement reception as Jo Anne Vincenti looks on. Photo, Mike Mitchell.

Laura Chen Retires

Assistant Professor Laura F. Chen retired from the NMSU Library on January 31, 1999, after over 27 years of service. She began work at NMSU as Assistant Catalog Librarian in 1971. In 1988, she became head of the General Cataloging Unit in the Technical Services Department. She continued as head of that unit in the new Bibliographic Services Department.

A native of Taiwan, Laura earned her Master of Science in Library Science degree from Syracuse University. She also holds a BS degree in law from the National Taiwan University. Before coming to NMSU, she worked at the Toronto Public Library and Onondaga Community College Library (Syracuse, N.Y.)

A reception was held in Laura's honor at New Library on January 20, 1999. Her husband Dr. Tuan Chen, a recent retiree from the NMSU Physics Department, was in attendance, along with many friends and colleagues. Laura's plans for her retirement include travel, tennis, and spending time with her two grandchildren, Matthew and Cassandra.

Did You Know?

Every 15 seconds an OCLC member library adds a record to the WorldCat.

The Library welcomes **Deborah McCarthy**, the new Electronic Resources Cataloger. She has been a librarian and cataloger since 1989, when she received her MLS degree from Texas Woman's University. Deborah enjoys solving interesting cataloging dilemmas. Her experience in a library that has just finished migrating to a new automated system will be of great help to this Library. Deborah's hobbies include reading, cooking, walking, and doing counted cross stitch.

Darnell Maria, records manager and archivist for the Ramah Navajo School Board, recently spent two days observing the operations of the Rio Grande Historical Collections. **Austin Hoover**, the Society of American Archivists' mentor to Mr. Maria, and **Marah deMeule** of the Archives provided training on several aspects of manuscripts and archives management and practice.

Six Library employees were recognized for their years of service to the University at the Administrative Council's Employee Services Awards Ceremony in February: Thirty years of service, **Cheryl Wilson**; Twenty years of service, **Roger Steeb**; Fifteen years of service: **Frances Alvarez, Darla Brizzee, Sandra Padilla, and Jeanette Smith**.

Susan Pinkerton, a Library Specialist I in the Access Services Department, was appointed to the Advisory Council for the Library Technology Program at Dona Ana Branch Community College. She is a graduate of that program. Susan also recently received a Grade II certification from the New Mexico State Library, which qualifies her to be the librarian in a New Mexico community of up to 15,000 in population.

Gwen Gregory, the Head of Bibliographic Services, received her Master of Public Administration degree from NMSU in December 1998. Her thesis is entitled "The Library Services and Technology Act: New Directions in Federal Funding for Libraries."

One Book Over the Line

by Jeanette Smith, Professor, Dean's Office, jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu

As summer beckons, with its promise of vacation, travel, and long road trips, New Mexicans must once again become mindful of the hazards of driving in a state where distances are commonly measured in hours rather than miles, and the roads are as straight as a rattlesnake stretched out to its full length. The dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or of driving while drowsy or distracted by a cellular phone, are serious and well known. However, there is another menace on our highways, lesser known, but with a dangerous potential — reading and driving.

Maybe it is the sheer boredom of our endless car trips, or maybe it is the undeviating directness of our roads that tempts us into this risky behavior, but in the last year I have become aware that more than one of my colleagues is in the habit of catching up on his/her professional reading while driving to and from meetings along New Mexico's major north/south route, Interstate 25, or as we call it, the Rio Grande Research Corridor. Some experts say that drivers who read are just as hazardous as other inattentive drivers and pose a major public health and safety threat to themselves and others.

•**Who's at risk?** Anyone who reads and drives. Studies attempting to prove that readers of bodice-ripper romances or genre westerns are more at risk than readers of American Libraries have been inconclusive.

•**Danger Signs for Drivers Who Read:** Inability to remember the last few hours of your road trip, except for what you have been reading. Jerking your car back into your lane seconds before impact. Finding yourself sprawled in a patch of prickly pear cactus without knowing how you got there.

•**Safe Driving Tips:** Friends don't let friends read and drive. Enlist the support of a "designated reader" who can read to you without getting dizzy. Schedule a break every 100 miles; stop sooner if your reader gets carsick. Or, if you must travel alone, investigate the responsible use of Books on Tape.

When it comes to reading and driving, don't head for the last roundup before your time. Do steer in the right direction and keep our New Mexico trails safe and happy.

Information Overload



This contemporary sculpture, "Ooze," by NMSU student Elizabeth Lang, was the occasion of much excitement at the New Library last summer when several reports were made to the Administrative Office that a file cabinet had exploded. Photo, Mike Mitchell.

Site-Seeing on the Library's Home Page

NMSU Library Home Page

<http://lib.nmsu.edu>

Recently Acquired Award-Winning Books

<http://lib.nmsu.edu:80/depts/collserv/AWARDS99.html>

Newest Books in the Library

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/nbl.html>

Library News

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/aboutlib/libnews/LIBNEWS.HTML>

Emerald Library (117 electronic journals)

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/scijour.html>

Are You Ready for Y2K?

by Marlo Brown, Assistant Professor
Branson Reference, marlo@lib.nmsu.edu

What is Y2K? Most people know the story of Y2K: the Year 2000 Bug. Back in the early days of computers, programmers used six digits to represent a date. This saved valuable space on 80-column punch cards, but it meant that only two digits were used for the year, so 1962 became just 62, and the year 1975 was written as 75. This has worked fine so far, but the problem may come at midnight on December 31, 1999, when computers that have not had the problem fixed may see the date as January 1, 1900. Even the computer experts can't agree on what will happen when 01-01-00 rolls around. Some claim that most really vital systems, such as the nation's air traffic control networks, electric power plants, banking systems, and nuclear weapons, will be ready in plenty of time for the year 2000. Others believe that the task of fixing the problem is too great for everything to be ready. Some of these naysayers are the very computer professionals tasked with fixing the Y2K problem, and the news in recent months has been full of stories about programmers buying cabins in the hills and stocking up on food.

What will happen next January? No one knows for sure. The government and many professionals in the computer industry have stated that the problems, if any, will be minor. At the other extreme are people predicting that the Y2K problem will bring about TEOTWAWKI (The End Of The World As We Know It). They expect widespread blackouts, a total meltdown of the banking industry, and millions of people fleeing cities made uninhabitable when power, water and sewage systems shut down — followed by a global recession and starvation. Another possibility is that the computer problems could be fixed, yet people could still be driven to panic by media coverage of the Y2K problem and general anxiety about the end of the century. In this scenario, a recession might be caused by a lack of consumer confidence, with large numbers of people pulling their money out of the stock market and bank accounts as the end of 1999 nears. Others, believing that civilization is about to end, might see the situation as an opportunity to burn, loot, or settle old grudges.

Y2K Preparations. It's difficult to prepare for a "crisis" when no two experts agree as to how serious it will be. It's probably a good idea to prepare for a brief interruption of basic services by storing some food and water, as well as any vital prescription medications that you take. Here in the Mesilla Valley, a power outage is unlikely to be life threatening for most people, provided they keep some warm blankets on hand. Be leery of camping stoves, barbecues, kerosene heaters, etc., however, as they can be

extremely dangerous if used indoors, due to carbon monoxide.

Even those who expect little trouble at the end of 1999 still anticipate that there could be problems with information stored on computers. Think about it; you depend on computers to store your bank account balances, credit card information, medical records, payroll records, and other vital information. What if some or all of that was erased due to a computer glitch? It seems like a good idea to take some precautions. Many of these practices are good habits during normal times, not just for Y2K.

- Keep copies of all of your pay stubs for 1999, both for payroll and tax purposes.
- Keep bank statements from 1999.
- Make copies of all other important documents pertaining to savings and investments.
- Obtain a hard copy of your medical records for your files at home.
- File copies of recent credit card statements.
- Have enough cash for basic needs at the end of 1999 in case ATMs don't work or your paycheck is delayed.
- Make backup copies of all important computer files, both at home and at work. Keep the backup copies safe.
- Make sure your personal computer is ready for Y2K. [See Fred Langa's article: "Tick, tick, tick, tick... are you ready for 2000?," in *Windows Magazine*, v. 10, n.1, p. 130 (January 1999) for a good article on the subject.]

Editorial note: Plans are in place to install the Library's new state-of-the-art automated system this year.

Y2K Web Sites

Government Information

Federal Aviation Administration

<http://www.faa/y2k.com/html/middle.html>

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

<http://www.fdic.gov/about/y2k/>

Securities and Exchange Commission

<http://www.sec.gov/news/home2000.htm>

Senate Committee Report on the Y2K Technology Problem (via CNN)

<http://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1999/03/02/y2k.report/>

News Organizations

ABCNEWS.com Y2K Archive

http://abcnews.go.com/sections/tech/Y2K/Y2K_index.html

Yahoo! Year 2000 Problem

http://headlines.yahoo.com/FC/Tech/Year_2000_Problem/

Doomsayers

Gary North's Y2K Links and Forum

<http://www.garynorth.com/>

Survival for Y2K

<http://eljay.holyoak.com/>

Why...

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libraries with state money. Thus, if NMSU is to have a better Library and archives program, other funding sources must be developed.

In 1997, the Library adopted a new strategic plan calling for enhanced efforts to improve funding in order to fully support the distinguished teaching, research, and service mission of the University. With enthusiastic help from many Library staff and the Library's on- and off-campus partners, more than one million dollars in grant applications have been prepared for government agencies, foundations, and major contributors. Some of these proposals, like the NEH Challenge Grant, have been approved. Funds have also been given to support the preservation of music scores and manuscripts; to buy engineering, science, and agriculture publications; to acquire new technology; and to extend awareness of our resources on campus and beyond. Building on this foundation, we are now extending our efforts to call upon all Library friends — old and new — inside and outside the University.

In the past two months, Library, Museum, and Arts and Sciences staff have contacted many of you about supporting the NEH Challenge Grant. Together, we have exceeded our first common goal of \$100,000 and are well on our way to our second goal. For those of you who have given, a big THANK YOU. We appreciate your support more than you know. Together, we are creating a center for scholarly research that will bring further academic distinction to NMSU.

For those of you who are considering a gift to the NEH Challenge Grant or any of our other important needs, let us know how we can answer your questions or address your desires and needs. Contributors have the satisfaction of helping to: preserve and extend knowledge, enrich student learning, increase research and competitiveness, improve our ability to serve the state and the region, improve the academic quality of NMSU, and do recognizably good work. I'd like to think that we get a lot of bang for your buck. Thank you for your continuing support. It is deeply appreciated.

An article by **Jeanette Smith**, "Take Me to Your Lifer: A History of Metrication in the United States," was published in the September/October 1998 issue of the *Journal of Government Information*, pages 419-438. The article was based on an invited presentation that she gave at the 1996 New Mexico Library Association Mini-Conference.

Associate Dean **R. David Myers'** article "Robert Marion La Follette" was published in the *Encyclopedia of the American Left* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, pages 425-427). His article "Ernesto Galarza" was published in the *Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1998, vol. 1, pages 303-305).

American Survival Guide has published a second article by **Marlo Brown** of Branson Reference. "Home Made Alcohol Stove" appears on pages 70-73 of the January 1999 issue.



Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Requests Simplified

by Cynthia Watkins, Instructor, Access Services, cwatkins@lib.nmsu.edu

Did you know that you can request materials not owned by the NMSU Library without filling out paper forms or going into the library? Electronic Interlibrary Loan (ILL)/Document Delivery Service (DDS) requests are available on the NMSU Library web page at <http://lib.nmsu.edu>. Choose *Request Forms* from the menu and select the *Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Service* (ILL/DDS) which is the first link on the page.

The new electronic ILL/DDS forms will guide you through a series of prompts to enter information about you and your request. The new "hot" question marks to the left side of each entry (?) will pop up more information to guide you quickly through the request process. Please fill out the form as completely as possible to assure the fastest return on your request. Electronic ILL/DD forms are particularly convenient when you are submitting several requests. Although you may key in only one book or journal article request per form, you will only have to complete the information about yourself once. Complete the loan request with the book or journal information. Click on the *Send Request* button to start the process. Note: Make sure you print the next page, which gives you the date and a record of the request you sent. To initiate another request use the "Back" button of your browser and click on *Clear Photocopy Info* or *Clear Book Info*. This will clear the request information and keep the information about you for the next request.

Stop by the ILL/DDS office on the second floor of Branson Library and we will be happy to assist you in making electronic requests. ILL/DDS hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery is a service for University students, faculty, and staff with current borrowing privileges. This service promotes coursework and scholarly research by providing access to materials not held by the University Library.

Why Support the NMSU Library?

by Charles Townley, Dean, ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu

To achieve its service goals, the New Mexico State University Library has worked to develop friends throughout the state and region. Over the years, thousands of people have become members of the Rio Grande Historical Collections and the Library Associates, and many have given generously to other Library funds and projects as well. We thank you for your continuing help.

To answer the challenge of the NEH Challenge Grant described in our lead article, the Library's friends and staff must draw together even more closely in a common effort to develop our financial resources. To begin this process, I believe that it is important to state frankly why the Library needs your financial support, as well as what it will mean for NMSU and you.

Library resources are essential prerequisites for high quality instruction, competitive research, and effective service. Yet we buy less than one new book, less than one-third of a subscription, very few manuscripts, and less than one-tenth of an electronic resource per student each year. At the department level, professional standards call for at least 200 subscriptions in each doctoral area, so that reasonable access to current literature can be obtained for graduate students and faculty. No doctoral program at NMSU has this level of support.

Limited funding is also reflected in the selective nature of our staffing and services. The Library staff is less than two-thirds the

size of a typical research library, restricting the amount of service we can provide. The number of hours we are open is less than most of our peer universities. Electronic resources tend to be current only, not permanent. Preservation and collection maintenance efforts are sub-minimal. The number of staff available for processing is too few to assure that all of our materials are cataloged, processed, and available for users. As a result, we sometimes spend extraordinary amounts of staff time finding needed information in unorganized collections. The Library falls short of meeting the burgeoning demand for instruction and guidance in using information technologies. Only in Interlibrary Loan do we rank number one with the highest per capita request rate among our peer institutions. While the quality of our user-focused services is exemplary, the quantity of service available must be severely rationed. We must ignore many of the infrastructure issues that will affect access for future generations of NMSU users.

As a prestigious research university holding the highest Carnegie classification, NMSU might expect to support its Library at a level that would qualify it for membership in the Association of Research Libraries. For many reasons, our state funding is only two-thirds of what one might expect. Most importantly, New Mexico is a poor state, ranking 48 among the 50 states in per capita income. While the people of New Mexico are comparatively generous in public spending for higher education, there is not much money to go around. Second, within higher education, the state budget meets only 26% of an adequate materials budget for library materials. State support for staff and operating funds is similarly limited. In addition, competition for state funding grows every year, making it more and more difficult to fund academic

(Why... continued on page 7)



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