FUNDING PRIORITIES 2008 - 2010

EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS OF THE ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN NEW MEXICO

Photo by Barry Staver
Libraries in New Mexico’s colleges and universities are a vital part of the excellence of their respective institutions. Ten years of funding lower than their national peers have left New Mexico libraries endangered. For higher education to succeed in the 21st century, all academic libraries need to be transitioning to the digital world and adopting new roles to serve the needs of students, faculty, and life long learners. The goal of the New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries (NMCAL) is to rectify this inadequate funding over the next three years, so that libraries in colleges and universities can serve not only local students and faculty but are able to be partners in meeting the collective needs of citizens throughout New Mexico.

NMCAL presents the unified position of academic libraries on key issues such as funding and implementing projects of mutual benefit (resource sharing, collection development, interlibrary loan and networking). Cooperative efforts among the 35 libraries significantly reduce costs of licensing electronic and other resources. By NMCAL members working together, the knowledge base for New Mexico’s colleges and universities is increased, benefiting all citizens.

Did you know that in a typical week New Mexico academic libraries:

- Number of people walking through the doors — 5M
- Number of reference questions answered — 300K
- Number of items checked out — 15K

New Mexico colleges and universities spend $232 per student FTE while the national average allocated for academic libraries is $386, resulting in a funding gap of $150 per student FTE.
NMCAL Funding Priorities for 2008 – 2010 action in six major areas that will establish an integrated plan for public higher education libraries:

- Legislative priorities of the higher education associations (CUP, NMICC & NMACC) such as: compensation, tuition credit, funding formula revisions, endowed chairs, and BR&R.
- Study, in concert with HED Task Force, the future direction of New Mexico public higher education libraries, and the funding to sustain it.
- Statewide GO Bond initiative for collections of multi-type libraries (public, school, and academic libraries).
- Annual inflation increases for library collections in higher education institutions.
- Endowments for collections and professorships and library directors.
- Consideration for university research libraries for costly research materials and technologies (NMSU, NM Tech, and UNM Main, Health Sciences, and Law).

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“Libraries ... are in the information dissemination business. They support the information system of New Mexico which feeds economic development in our communities and this state.”

-- Daniel Walsh, AVP, Research and Economic Development, New Mexico Tech

**Increases in Average U.S. Journal Costs 1998-2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>872%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math/Computer Science</td>
<td>659%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>476%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>468%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>409%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>253%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Price Index</td>
<td>23%</td>
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</tbody>
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When visiting colleges to decide which one to attend, students rank the following as their top five areas to visit:

1. Buildings housing their major
2. Residence halls
3. **LIBRARY**
4. Classrooms
5. Technology facilities


Passing this Bond during the November 2008 election will help public academic libraries to:

- Provide 24/7 access to library information resources for all students and faculty no matter where they live.

- Update current library materials for college students across New Mexico.

- Help college libraries and programs meet accreditation standards.

"A college library is like a community reservoir of knowledge that can infuse energy, enlightenment and inspiration into students, scholars and lifelong learners alike."

-- Dr. Katharine W. Winograd, President 
Central New Mexico Community College

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### Inflation Rates for Academic Books* 
1989 to 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Inflation Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North American Academic Books 1989 - 2006</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Science/Technology College Books 1989 - 2006</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Academic institutions and their libraries help New Mexico grow its own workforce by graduating information literate students.