Bond B for Libraries will be on the Ballot in the November 2020 election!

The November 2020 Election will be crucial for academic libraries across the State of New Mexico. Senate Bill #207 passed unanimously in both the Senate and House. Governor Lujan Grisham completed her review of legislation passed by the 2020 session of the New Mexico Legislature. She signed SB #207 – 2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS GO BOND ACT (Munoz, Neville, Smith), which has bond issues to be considered by voters on the November 3, 2020 general election ballot. Library Bond Issue B will provide $9,500,000, which includes $3 million each for public, academic and public school libraries, and $500,000 for tribal libraries. If Bond B is approved by voters, academic libraries will receive much needed funding to support the success of college and university students in New Mexico by providing 24/7 access to quality resources and information.

Academic Libraries during COVID 19

Academic Libraries in New Mexico acted quickly when stay at home orders were announced in March 2020. Already having significant digital content and electronic resource sharing consortiums in place, New Mexico academic libraries are in a great position to continue serving students remotely.

To help students succeed, New Mexican academic libraries implemented a number of initiatives:

- Curbside pickup for materials
- Technology loaning (Laptops/iPads, Webcams, Wi-Fi Hotspots, Calculators)
- Placement testing facilitated through library
- Virtual Reference (Zoom, Chat through Library homepage, email, voice, text)
- Scanning materials for patrons and emailing them
- Interlibrary loan/Document delivery
- Partnering with other departments to provide services (i.e. IT, Student Services)
- Hosting Zoom meetings on behalf of professional organizations
- Diverting more funding into electronic resources (i.e. eBooks)
- Constant marketing of Library Services (direct emails, Facebook, website)
- Virtual routing of physical journals
- Virtual work for library student employees to improve access to patrons
- More online presentations:
  - Virtual open house, Virtual new student orientation, Virtual new faculty orientation, Virtual library bibliographic instruction, Virtual orientation for new nursing students, Virtual financial literacy
- Highlighting resources (i.e. online resource of the week)
- Moving subscriptions to newspapers online
2020 New Mexico Academic Libraries
Things to Know

40% of New Mexico libraries report that they do not provide broadband internet access. Of this approximately 24% pertain specifically to academic libraries.

25% of New Mexico libraries provide services with outdated computers that are five or more years old. 16% of academic libraries reported that they have computers that are 3-4 years old, 20% had computers 4-5 years old and 24% had computers that were more than 5 years old.

84% of libraries report that their staffing budget has decreased or stayed the same in the last three years; academic libraries report the highest percentage of decreased budgets.

“As the School of Health Sciences at San Juan College, our ongoing challenge is to maintain the most current learning materials and equipment. Graduates from our various healthcare programs must be prepared with the best skills and knowledge to successfully compete in the job market.

The San Juan College Library has consistently and repeatedly used GO bond dollars to support learning materials for our School of Health Sciences in maintaining the highest standards in learning materials and ensure ongoing accreditation”.

-Dr. Virgil Caldwell, Dean
San Juan College, School of Health Sciences

“We have six computers in a library that needs to serve 500 students in all and 28 students per class period. And two of these computers are at least six years old.”

-Academic Librarian

“We have become technology intensive and the complexity of technology increases quickly”

-Academic Librarian

*A few Facts were extracted from the 2016 New Mexico Libraries Assessment Report, September 2016

Library Journal, 4/20

New Mexico Libraries Assessment

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<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Database Title Price</th>
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State Funded Colleges and Academic Libraries in New Mexico

• Central New Mexico Community College
• Clovis Community College
• Diné College
• Eastern New Mexico University – Portales
• Eastern New Mexico University – Roswell
• Eastern New Mexico University – Ruidoso
• Institute of American Indian Arts
• Luna Community College
• Mesalands Community College
• Navajo Technical University
• New Mexico Highlands University
• New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
• New Mexico Junior College
• New Mexico Military Institute
• New Mexico State University
• New Mexico State University – Alamogordo
• New Mexico State University - Carlsbad
• New Mexico State University – Dona Ana
• New Mexico State University – Grants
• Northern New Mexico College
• San Juan College
• Santa Fe Community College
• Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
• University of New Mexico – Albuquerque
• University of New Mexico – Gallup
• University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center
• University of New Mexico – Los Alamos
• University of New Mexico – Taos
• University of New Mexico – Valencia
• Western New Mexico University

Photo courtesy of Central New Mexico Community College

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NMCAL Legislative Committee, August 18, 2020