NMCAL SUMMER RETREAT MINUTES
July 29, 1998
Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Members Attending: Isabel Rodarte, Linda Schappert, Dennis
Davies-Wilson, Norice Lee, Charles Townley, Holly Buchanan, Kris Warmoth,
John McCance, Inga M. Waite, Eleanor R. Kuhl, Steve Rollins, Nancy
Dennis, James Pawlak, Anne Moore, Randy Gaylor, Kay Krehbiel, Sylvia
Medina, Rollah Aston, Kathleen Knoth, LTC Jerry Klopfer, Fred Wise, Ed
Dowlin, Ruben F. Aragon, Marsha Baum, and Robert L. Migneault.

The NMCAL Summer Retreat met on July 29, 1998 in Albuquerque, New
Mexico. Discussion and actions taken by NMCAL members during their
one-day meeting included:

a. Charles Townley, NMCAL's Legislative Committee Chair, led discussions
on Formula Funding of Library Acquisitions.

 He provided members with five related handouts. They included a June 21,
1998 letter to the Commission on Higher Education Library Formula Task Force,
a proposed two year library formula plan for 1998, a four year library
formula plan for 1998, an academic price index listing, and an explanation
sheet on library collections for library formula funding purposes. Charles
Townley asked members to review the information and asked them to use the
information to obtain support from administrators on increasing formula
funding.

  Steve Rollins explained the differences between full formula funding and
formula funding revision. Full formula funding increases the current 2/3
rate to 100%. Formula Revision is to change the formula's variables. (i.e.,
increasing the average book price).

  The legislative process includes the following actions: NMCAL will need to
make formal recommendations to the commission. NMCAL may be asked to present
testimony on revising funding/increasing amount. NMCAL will need support
from CHE, the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and the Governor.

  A question was raised as to what type of CHE support was needed. Robert L.
Migneault mentioned he had spoken with Ron Toya several times about NMCAL and
trying to obtain more money for libraries. On the local front, UNM's Deans'
Council has made libraries a priority which could also influence CHE later
on.

  Steve Rollins presented a draft library proposal for the legislature. The
proposal is based on last year's bill that passed both in the senate and
house but was later vetoed by Governor Johnson. The proposal will be
presented again this year with an expanded version of the plan. New
components of the plan include full text library resources in support of
Health & Legal Professionals. The entire proposal requests 1.8 million.

Steve mentioned that the NMCAL would have to lay some ground work for this proposal and work to obtain support from the governors office. A question was raised as to the differences between this proposal and formula funding. Charles Townley mentioned that this was a statewide electronic initiative to meet the research needs of state campuses whereas, formula funding supports annual funding for acquisitions of collections and access.

b. Legislative Issues Action Items:

 A motion was called for NMCAL members to approve formula revision as a NMCAL program and to approve the electronic initiative as a NMLA proposal. The motion carried. Randy Gaylor suggested Steve and Charles work with NMLA to keep abreast of issues each legislative committee is working on.

 Charles Townley asked NMCAL members to provide him with a list of their school's priorities.

 Townley encouraged action from NMCAL members and asked them to talk to their presidents, financial officers, and others to continue to promote library funding as a priority.

 Charles Townley agreed to put together a script for members to use in encouraging administrators to support the library priority.

c. John McCance led discussions on "Issues facing the Consortium." Five issues were discussed.

 The first issue deals with FirstSearch and how NMCAL will meet the needs of members in the next 10 years. Many two-year schools only purchase the base package and receive special treatment. Should NMCAL have two tiers of service one for the two year and four year schools? Steve Rollins mentioned that the base package includes 17 databases, all citation based. He also mentioned that library purchasing power was greater with more libraries involved. For example, UNM's Lexus Nexis cost was significantly reduced by joining 600 libraries.

 Ed Dowlin asked if AMIGOS and WGU should take the lead to organize an effort to combine the purchasing power it has. Jerry Klopfer suggested including state libraries in any effort. Steve clarified that FirstSearch does not include only NMCAL members, but all are in WGU territory.

 A second issue was raised by Kris Warmoth who mentioned the quality of research has lessened with full-text resources available on the internet. Most students prefer full-text resources and do not bother to research the citation base. Kay Kriebel suggested a way to solve this problem was to train students. Randy Gaylor mentioned that it was important not only to train librarians and students but also faculty, perhaps in a statewide process. He also suggested that if the institution would see the problems now being faced with full-text resources, the institution might support libraries more with funding.

 Jim Pawlak mentioned a third issue facing the consortium which is the problem of offering students an ILL alternative. Sometimes it takes two weeks for ILL. He added that an alternative was needed. Ed Dowlin mentioned his library was looking into Ariel and other alternatives to provide faster ILL service. Holly Buchanan mentioned another project HSC is looking into using scanners and digital printers to speed up this process.

 Isabel Rodarte mentioned a fourth issue facing the consortium of which paper journal to cut, with electronic journals available. Electronic licensing often does not allow libraries to share sources. John McCance mentioned that his library continues to purchase both Wilson electronic and full-text. Inga Waite suggested that the group form a Collection development committee to look into these issues.