

NMCAL Accomplishments 1996-2006

There were 17 original academic library institutions that started NMCAL. In 1996 there were 29 members and at the end of this period, in 2006, there were 35 members.

Resource Sharing

NMCAL continues the contract with OCLC for a consortial rate on the FirstSearch database subscriptions. In 1997, there were 21 institutions subscribing and by 2006 there were 29 libraries taking advantage of this savings for electronic resources.

In 1998 Ben Wakashige became the new State Librarian and proved to work collaboratively with all library types. He showed his commitment to providing equal access to information by inviting NMCAL libraries to access electronic resources through the New Mexico State Library's "Connections and Collections" program. This continued to build a win-win situation where academic libraries could provide the space, the access, and the training for community members as well as their students for these statewide electronic resources.

The number of NMCAL libraries joining the LIBROS online catalog continued to grow. In 1996 there were 7 full members and 5 associate members and by 2006 there were 19 full members and 11 associate members.

Funding

In 1997, the CHE (Commission on Higher Education) placed library needs #18 out of 20 on their priority list for the upcoming legislative session. The following year the UNM's Dean Council made libraries a priority.

Representatives from CHE advised that each NMCAL director work within their own institution to be sure the libraries do get what the funding formula promised... "to simply get the money in the budget". (see July 29, 1999 minutes at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/nmcald/publications.html>).

The first NMLA/NMCAL Library Legislative Day was held at the 2000 legislative session.

In 2001, the Legislative Committee reported that there was no change in the status of the Academic Library Funding Formula as it was currently operating under a formula that generates funds based on data from 1996 price indices.

General Obligation bonds became a source of funding for libraries across the state. One was approved by the voters in 1994, and the library community addressed this option again in 2002. NMCAL has played a role in each GO bond issue since then. In 2002, \$35 million was proposed and \$16 million was approved by the Legislature. Two years later, the 2004 Legislature approved \$16.1 million of the \$42 million requested and in 2004 they approved \$9 million of the \$53.5 million requested by libraries statewide. The amounts requested are derived after a great deal of research is done on the costs of materials in all formats, and the needs of the libraries.

Strategic Planning

In 2002, a strategic planning session led by Lorie J. Barzano concluded with five goals: 1.) to be an active and informed advocate for academic libraries 2.) to advocate information literacy 3.) to advocate library operations 'best practices' and standards 4.) to strengthen NMCAL's internal processes or infrastructure 5.) to develop a NMCAL marketing strategy and plan

This strategic plan was set into place over the next few years with new committee assignments, and setting goals and objectives for each committee. The NMCAL Legislative Committee sponsored a NMLA pre-conference program on Marketing Academic Libraries and Legislative Advocacy. A lot of work was done on cleaning and updating the website <http://lib.nmsu.edu/nmcalf/index.html>. And, a "Best Practices" roundtable at each meeting was started to share innovative procedures or services. Also, a travel scholarship was approved to encourage academic librarians and paraprofessionals to present at NMLA, or other professional conferences.