

New Mexico State Library

Commission Report

October 21, 2025

Fiscal Year 2026, Quarter 1 (July to September 2025)

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ADMINISTRATION

Eli Guinnee, State Librarian

- State Grants in Aid update: Following the September 15 Board Meeting, Libraries that received Denial Letters were informed of the Commission decisions. Library Development staff have prepared the State Grants in Aid Grant Agreements and Requisitions, and fiscal staff have entered all requisitions into the SHARE financial system. A full share this year will be \$10,000. Our next step will be to prepare Rural Libraries Endowment grants; the budget office has confirmed that the FY26 funds have been successfully transferred to the grant program fund and are ready to be granted.
- With the Federal Shutdown and uncertain LSTA funding, we continue to be very careful with hiring and spending in order to conserve our current federal funds. That said we have three positions in the process of hiring: Library Supervisor in Public Services, Reader Advisor in LBPD, and Deputy State Librarian.
- About half of the State Library staff will be at the NMLA Annual Conference October 22-24, with many of them leading Pre-Conference sessions and programs. This is an excellent opportunity for NMSL staff to meet with and learn from librarians around the state.
- In recent weeks, several NMSL staff supported the Conference on Aging in Glorieta, and the Fall Festival at the Governor’s Residence.
- Baker and Taylor, from which we get an eBook database and our Annual Report software, has gone out of business. We are currently evaluating alternatives.

LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED (LBPD)

John Mugford, Regional Librarian

New Mexico Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) Commission Report
July 1 - September 30, 2025

John Mugford, Manager of LBPD, reporting.

CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Duplication circulation for this quarter was 32,847, about a one percent increase from the same quarter in 2024. FY26 circulation has averaged 10,949 per month, which projects to a possible annual total exceeding 130,000.

Twelve Scribe Mini duplication units are situated at public libraries in Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Clovis, Hobbs, Las Cruces (2), Los Alamos, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Silver City, and Taos as well as at the Santa Fe Community College. An added deployment is scheduled for November at the public library in Portales, as per patron request. Five will still be available for future deployment to other potential sites such as more public libraries, reservation chapter sites, senior residential communities, and prison locations. Acceptance stays highest among public libraries. Activity continues to be low with the most active sites found in Silver City, Los Alamos, and Rio Rancho in that order. Active sites are being reviewed and analyzed to understand causes. Some strategic redeployment of Scribe Minis in FY26 may occur with a goal of achieving higher activity. As for now the deployment and use of Scribe Minis that began in October 2025 may be viewed as a qualitative, if not quantitative, accomplishment.

The National Library Service (NLS) and affiliates added 4,923 new audiobook and braille titles during these three months. Of this amount, 683 titles were supplied by regional library programs and 393 from foreign language and other English sources obtained through the Marrakesh Treaty and Accessible Books Consortium. This latter grouping now totals nearly 9,000 titles in the general collection. Overall, the National Library Service (NLS) digital book collection now includes more than 150,000 audio book titles and nearly 30,000 braille titles. Over 24,000 digital magazine issues are available for download.

September saw the departure of one Reader Advisor, Ursula McDaid, due to a promotion to the Development Bureau. As this position is state funded and the other, currently occupied, Reader Advisor position is federally funded, it is expected that the incumbent, Liam Lockhart, will effectively be rehired into the state funded position with the federally funded position left vacant indefinitely.

APPLICATIONS

LBPD continues to process detailed applications at an average rate of slightly more than one day. 73 applications were completed during this period, an increase of about ten per cent over the previous fiscal year's first quarter. The New Mexico Commission for the Blind continued to provide about one-half of all applications received Friends and Family being the second most active referral

sources. In September, Jennifer obtained or reactivate five registrants through attendance at a senior event.

OUTREACH LIBRARIAN

From July through September 2025, the Outreach Librarian, Jennifer McGill, attended and represented the New Mexico State Library (NMSL) in the following ways:

July

- Constant Contact reminders were sent to LBPB patrons regarding upcoming NLS events, such That All May Read and Smart Speaking to Your Smart Speaker.
- Attendance at a summer reading event with Kelly McCabe, Youth Services consultant.
- Travel to Belen, Corrales & Bernalillo libraries with Amy Di Bello to share NMSL resources.
- Representation for NMSL at the Isleta Pueblo College and Career Fair sharing resources with their community.
- Attendance at the online presentation of local musician, Jono Manson, who was a special guest for the National Library Service Summer Reading program. Musician was recommended and procured by Jennifer.

August

- Presented to seniors living at Manzano del Sol Living Center in Albuquerque about the services of LBPB.

September

- Attended The National Book Festival in Washington D.C., representing New Mexico in the Parade of States and attended meetings at the Library of Congress regarding the 250 Roadmap to Reading Celebration.
- Traveled to Jemez Springs Public Library with Amy DiBello to share NMSL & LBPB services.
- Exhibited at the New Mexico Aging Conference and also presented alongside State Librarian, Eli Guinnee, and Books By Mail Specialist, Berdina Nieto, on NMSL services that are specifically of use in the aging populations.
- Represented NMSL at the Los Luceros Historic Site's Fall festival sharing resources and promotional materials of NMSL.
- Wrote press release material for DCA marketing to share the recording of Laurel Goodluck's books.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

Jack McCarthy, former Deputy Director of the Palace of the Governors and the New Mexico History Museum, finished Law West of the Pecos and has begun recording Disturbing Art Lessons: A Memoir of Questionable Ideas and Equivocal Experiences by Eli Levin. Else-Maria Tennesen narrated two children's books—Maria Paints the Hills by Pat Mora (DBC10500) and Georgia Rises: A Day in the Life of Georgia O'Keeffe by Kathryn Lasky (DBC10498)—that included extensive new image narration written by Yavar Moradi with the narrator's input. Her next recording project is Rudolfo Anaya's The Farolitos of Christmas. Recent St. John's graduate, Tay Rafferty, before leaving

the Santa Fe area, completed narration of *Sins of the Shovel: Looting, Murder & the Evolution of American Archaeology* by Rachel Morgan.

Also, Native American author Laurel Goodluck visited to narrate four of her own books. Two of these—*l Yáadilá! Good Grief!* and *Too Much: My Great Big Native Family*—did not have image narration. Two others—*Rock Your Mocs* and *Fierce Aunties!*—required extensive new image.

The following titles were uploaded to BARD during this quarter for general download distribution:

DBC10501 – *Billy Blackfeet in the Rockies* by Marc Simmons, read by Jack McCarthy

DBC10502 – *Friday the Arapaho Boy* by Marc Simmons, read by Jack McCarthy

DBC10508 – *Baby Jack and Jumping Jack Rabbit* by Loyd Tireman, read by Emily King

DBC10510 – *Hop-A-Long* by Loyd Tireman, read by Emily King

DBC10509 – *Quills* by Loyd Tireman, read by Emily King

DBC10512 – *3 Toes* by Loyd Tireman, read by Emily King

While there has been a boost in volunteer activity, there has also been some backlog on new titles available on BARD due to the NLS catalog migration occurring from May to June; however, the library was able to complete and upload several projects prior to submission forms being closed for a few weeks:

DBC10465 – *No Place for a Lady* by Shelby J. Tisdale and read by Ellen Humphreys

DBC10463 – *The Foundations of the Glen Canyon Dam* by Erika Marie Bsumek and read by Robert Zimmerman

DBC10477 – *Under the Palace Portal: Native American Artists in Santa Fe* by Karl A. Hoerig and read by Bruce Herr

DBC10448 – *The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico* by Bernal Díaz del Castillo and read by John Pound

DBC10472 – *Women, Witchcraft, and the Inquisition in Spain and the New World* edited by María Jesús Zamora Calvo and read by Ellen Humphreys

DBC10479 – *The King of Adobe: Reies López Tijerina, Lost Prophet of the Chicano Movement* by Lorena Oropeza and read by Bruce Herr

DBC10332 – *La Conquistadora: Unveiling the History of Santa Fe's Six-Hundred-Year-Old Religious Icon* by Jaima Chevalier and read by William Scheer

DBC10486 – *Georgia's Bones* by Jennifer Bryant and read by Ellen Humphreys

DBC10485 – *The Imagination Warriors* by Marc Romanelli (read by the author)

Library Development

Carmelita Aragon, Bureau Chief

- Administered the FY25 Annual Report to 101 recognized public libraries.
 - Opened July 1, closed August 11.
 - Held Mid-Survey Check-in meeting July 29, via Zoom to offer assistance/guidance on the FY25 Annual Report.
- Interviewed candidates and hired Ursula McDaid for State Data Coordinator position.
- Attended SRP programs in Bosque Farms and Albuquerque.
- Reviewed all 101 public libraries FY25 Annual Reports to determine FY26 State Grants-in-Aid eligibility.
 - Denial letters sent to 18 libraries.
 - 98 of 101 public libraries to receive FY26 State Grants-in Aid.
- Attended State Fair College and Career Readiness Day to promote NMSL resources.
- Library site visits to Rio Communities Public Library and Ojo Sarco Community Library to confirm all requirements are met per the 4.5.2 NMAC to become a recognized developing public library for FY26.
 - At the end of Q1, NMSL recognized 104 public libraries.
- Processed payment requests for 57 of 59 eligible public libraries for the House Bill 2 Rural Library Program One-Time grant (\$43,859.65).
 - 2 libraries declined the one-time grant, Pinedale Tribal Community Library and Pueblo de San Ildefonso Library.
- Processed 3 applications for FY26 Rural Library Program Library Establishing (RLPLE) grants.
 - \$5,000 each to Ojo Sarco Community Library, Timberon Public Library, and Baldwin Cabin Public Library.
- Responded to questions from libraries regarding allowable expenditures using the House Bill 2 One-Time Grant.
- Onboarded new State Data Coordinator, Ursula McDaid.
- Attended 2025 Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) conference in Albuquerque.
- Held 3rd quarterly library director's (Zoom) meeting September 25, 2025 (future meeting, December 18).
- Attended State Data Coordinator meeting with the IMLS to discuss proposed changes to the FY26 Public Library Survey (PLS) a.k.a. Annual Report.
- Attending and presenting at 2025 NMLA conference in October.

Continuing Education Coordinator

Ada Negraru

During the 1st quarter of FY26, I designed and started administering the Librarian & Librarianship Certification exam: two library directors took the exam in September and October, and seven are scheduled to take it on November 6th. I updated the *Library Foundations Study Guide* and conducted exam preparation sessions. I continued to process coursework-based librarian certificate applications and answered questions regarding librarian certifications. I posted the monthly professional development opportunities to the Hitchhiker blog on the NMSL website. I attended and reported at the Continuing Education Forum in Providence, RI. I assisted public library

administrators with enrolling staff in Niche Academy training courses. I attended Telehealth meetings and started planning Telehealth training resources with the UNM HSLIC Outreach and Community Engagement Librarian. I covered one weekly shift at the Laboratory of Anthropology Library. I joined Development Bureau staff on library site visits. In coordination with the State Records and Archives Center, I organized an “Archives Month” display of professional development and training resources in the upstairs lobby of the Caruthers Building.

Site Visits, Meetings, and Programs

- 07/02: MOGL and Wow Bus in Moriarty
- 07/03: Albuquerque Public Library, International District branch
- 07/05: Bosque Farms
- 07/29: NALSIG meeting at the National Hispanic Cultural Center
- 07/29: UNM Center for Disability & Development Library
- 08/27: Jemez Springs
- 09/10: NMSL table at the New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque

Conferences and Trainings

- 08/05-07: Foundations in Natural Foresight online training
- 08/18-20: Continuing Education Coordinators Forum, Providence, RI
- 09/17-20: Association for Rural & Small Libraries conference, Albuquerque, NM

Upcoming Events

- 10/20: NMSL table at “Archival Oddities” - Meow Wolf, Santa Fe
- 10/22-24: New Mexico Library Association Annual Conference
 - Presentations: “More than a chore: Why Library Plans and Policies are Important and How to Write Them (session with Development Bureau staff); “Wait, is there an exam?” (lightning talk); “Chats & Conversations: Public Library Directors meeting with NMSL Library Development Bureau.”

Professional Service

- NMLA Education Committee. Member.
- NM Archives & Archivists Special Interest Group, under the umbrella of NMLA. Co-Chair and webmaster. Term ended June 30, 2025.
- Society of Southwest Archivists Professional Development Committee. Member. Programming Committee for the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- Academy of Certified Archivists. Member.
- Society of American Archivists Mentorship program (mentor).

GO Bonds Program Coordinator

Patricia Moore

2022 Go Bonds

The current 2022 GO Bond allocation (\$7,000,000) provides \$6,000,000 for public libraries and \$1,000,000 for tribal public libraries.

- As of October 2025, the State Library has received 94 reimbursement requests totaling \$1,491,717 from 45 public libraries. Six public libraries (Belen, Columbus, Espanola, Eunice, Moriarty, and Jal/Woolworth) have spent all their 2024 GO Bond allocations. Eight Tribal public libraries have submitted 17 reimbursement requests totaling \$150,404. With less than six months out from the deadline of April 1, 2026, for all final reimbursement requests to be received, the public libraries still have 75% of their GO Bonds available while

the Tribal public libraries have 85% still available. While those percentages seem quite high, the reimbursement requests are on track, as compared to previous GO Bond cycles.

- I am working with the 15 non-profit libraries in conjunction with their fiscal agents to provide the State Library with updated Memorandums of Understanding. All 15 libraries need to get updated MOUs/contracts since all are only valid until the end of FY26 (June 30, 2026).

2024 GO Bonds

The upcoming 2024 GO Bond allocation (\$7,000,000) provides \$6,000,000 for public libraries and \$1,000,000 for tribal public libraries, the same as the 2022 GO Bonds. The 2024 GO Bonds were approved in the November 2024 election with 530,807 (65.70%) yes votes.

- Public libraries' allocations are much the same as their 2022 GO Bond amounts, but final allocations will be calculated before Grant Agreements are signed. The tribal public libraries' individual 2024 GO Bond allocations are reduced, however, from the 2022 GO Bond allocations. The tribal public libraries share the \$1,000,000 equally among themselves (a decision made prior to the 2008 GO Bonds), and \$2000 is automatically taken out for support of Rural Services (Books-by-Mail and Bookmobiles) before the funds are distributed. The reason for the reduction: The 2022 GO Bonds were divided among 18 libraries, with each library receiving on average \$55,444.00, while the 2024 GO Bonds are divided among 23 libraries, with each library receiving on average \$43,390.00.
- 2024 GO Bond Funding will include allocations for five new Developing public libraries: Hillsboro Community Library in Sierra County, Nambe Pueblo Library in Santa Fe County, Picuris Pueblo Library and Taos Pueblo Library, both in Taos County, and Pinedale Tribal Community Library in McKinley County. Pinedale is joining the Torreon Community Library (Sandoval County) as our two currently recognized Navajo Nation libraries. Two additional Developing public libraries have been recognized – Ojo Sarco and Baldwin Cabin. Those two libraries won't be eligible for GO Bonds until the 2026 GO Bonds are voted on next November 2026. There are now 82 recognized public libraries and 23 tribal public libraries in New Mexico, a total of 105.
- As previously noted, a decision was made by the Department of Finance and Administration to sell the Bonds in two batches this year; one in June and the other will be sometime in December, rather than the usual Spring/Summer timeline. The sale of GO Bonds for all public libraries are deferred until the December date. Once sold, the monies will be encumbered in the State's financial database. Upon receipt of all fully executed Grant Agreements, the Purchase Orders are created and sent to the libraries. The GO Bond allocations should be available for reimbursements to the libraries sometime in early FY27. Usually, the 2024 GO Bonds would be available to the libraries until June 30, 2028. With this change of date in selling the Bonds, the 2024 GO Bonds will be available until June 30, 2029. Within the Legislative language, GO Bonds must be available to libraries over three fiscal years.

State Data Coordinator

Ursula McDaid

Started in position September 2, 2025.

Annual Report:

- Edited FY24 Annual Report Data to ensure its readiness and readability for website upload.

- Began data analysis and clean-up of FY25 data, looking at significant changes and outliers to prepare the data for processing through the Public Library Survey (PLS) database in the Spring.

State Grants in Aid:

- Worked with Carmelita to gain familiarity with the State Grants in Aid process including:
 - Distribution of rejection letters
 - Appeal/waiver process
 - Creation and submission of purchase requisitions for funding
 - Creation and distribution of Grant Agreement packets for eligible libraries

General:

- Provided general assistance to library directors as needed, including compiling requested statistics and graphical analysis for the Anthony City Library Director Julia Walth for a project she is working on regarding library fines.

Site Visits:

- Carnegie Library in Las Vegas
- Ojo Sarco Community Library

Meetings Attended:

- NMSL Committee Meeting to discuss State Grants in Aid appeals and waivers.
- State Data Coordinator meeting with the IMLS to discuss proposed changes to the FY26 Public Library Survey (PLS) a.k.a. Annual Report.
- 3rd quarterly library director's (Zoom) meeting September 25, 2025 (future meeting, December 18).

Conferences Attended:

- Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference 2025 (September)

Upcoming Conferences:

- New Mexico Library Association Conference 2025 (October)
- New Mexico Data Users Conference (November)

Tribal Libraries Program Outreach Program Support Specialist - Crownpoint

Raeshelle Largo

I visited 71-chapter houses on the Navajo Nation. I delivered 2 more computers to chapters and 2 are remaining for Ramah and Smithlake Chapter. I delivered books for community members to pick up, coloring books that chapters give out during chapter meetings to keep kids busy, bookmarks, brochures of Brainfuse JobNow, Brainfuse HelpNow, El Portal, Gale resource, Books by Mail, Library for the Blind & Print Disabled, and NM eReads. I provide outreach support for chapter coordinators and chapters who have new hires in the position. I identify community needs in reminding them that I am available to help plan and develop workshops, attend their chapter meetings if needed and continue to visit chapters and provide supplies for their community members. Chapters have been appreciative for the new computers, the library's support and are grateful for the free online resources available to them. I coordinate and assist the Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator in developing community libraries on the Navajo Nation.

Upcoming Conference attending: New Mexico Library Association Oct. 22, 2025 – Oct. 24, 2025

Upcoming: Thursday, Oct. 23, 12:00–1:00 PM (during the NMLA Conference)

Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator

Cassandra Osterloh

Library Visits & Support

- Conducted 7 site visits to tribal public libraries, providing hands-on support with weeding, cataloging, material selection, policy development, and overall library planning.
- Met with two new library directors and members of tribal administration to discuss state funding requirements and outline my role in providing support to their libraries.
- Continued to provide input and technical assistance to several tribal libraries in the final planning and design phases of new library facilities, including meeting with tribal administration and architects.

Outreach & Advocacy

- Wrote an article on the timeline and impact of federal IMLS funding cuts on tribal libraries for the “American Indian Library Association Newsletter”.
- Led meetings with the Tribal Library Consultant Community of Practice (COSLA) as well as fielded questions from several State Librarians and library consultants regarding the group.

TLP Initiatives & Community Engagement

- Facilitated monthly Tribal Libraries Program (TLP) director meetings and book club discussions to foster connection and peer learning.
- Created “Ask an Archivist: How to Care for Indigenous Materials”, an online discussion series for all libraries to discuss (with Indigenous archivists) care for the Indigenous materials in their collections. Conducted first of five sessions.
- Finalized fall events, including a day-long field trip and workshops at the UNM’s Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center.
- Organizing upcoming spring events, workshops, and site visits, including activities in partnership with NASA@ My Library and CNM’s Ingenuity Labs.

Conferences, Workshops & Meetings Attended

- Attended the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Annual Conference in Albuquerque.
- Presented “Respectful Representation: Acquiring and Displaying Native American Art and Artifacts in Your Library.” *Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference*. Albuquerque NM, September 25, 2025.
- Organized and led the NALSIG (Native American Libraries Special Interest Group) meeting at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.
- Participated in a review committee for the five-year review of the UNM’s Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center.

Other Highlights

- Leading the national revision of the *TRAILS Tribal Library Procedures Manual* (5th edition), updating the 2017 version to reflect current practices and priorities in tribal librarianship. Anticipated completion date – May 2026.

Upcoming Conference Presentations

- “Beyond Inclusion: Building Library Collections That Center Native Voices.” *New Mexico Library Association Conference*. Albuquerque NM. October 2025.
- “Developing Community Engagement and Partnerships for Strong Library Programming.” *International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums*. Cherokee NC, October 2025. (half-day pre-conference session)
- “Developing Community Engagement and Partnerships for Strong Programming.” *Mountain Plains Library Association / North Dakota Library Association / South Dakota Library Association Tri-Conference*. Grand Forks ND, October 2025.

- “Respectful Representation: Acquiring and Displaying Native American Art and Artifacts in Your Library.” *New Mexico Library Association Conference*. Albuquerque NM, October 2025. (half-day pre-conference session)

Professional Service and Leadership Roles

- **American Indian Library Association (AILA):** Member-at-Large; Communications Committee Member; Co-Chair of the American Indian Youth Literature Award Committee.
- **American Library Association (ALA):** ALA-APA Councilor (2023–2025); Chair of the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds (RNTLOAK) Committee; Member of the Public Policy Committee.
- **Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM):** Member, Tribal Library Council; Chair, Native Emerging Professionals Network Resource & Training Committee; Member, Programming Committee for the 2025 International Conference in Cherokee, NC
- **COSLA:** Chair, Tribal Library Coordinators.
- **Joint Council of Librarians of Color 2026 Conference (Spokane, WA):** Steering Committee Member (AILA representative); Chair, Concurrent Programs, Poster Sessions & Proceedings; Chair, Conference Planning, Logistics & Local Arrangements
- **Mountain Plains Library Association:** Recording Secretary.

New Mexico Library Association (NMLA): ALA-APA Councilor, NM Chapter (2023–2025); Chair, Native American Libraries Special Interest Group (NALSIG); Co-Chair, Advocacy Committee.

Youth Services Coordinator

Kelly McCabe

2025 Summer Reading Program / CSLP

- The 2025 Color Our World Summer Reading Program was wildly popular across New Mexico, with 104 library locations reporting their statistics through the Summer Reading Survey for Libraries. Statistics Included:
 - 30,098 Registered SRP Participants
 - 3,177 Summer Reading Events, with 85,015 Event Attendees
- We received over 600 Parent/Caregiver surveys for the Summer Reading Program, representing 1,484 participants. These surveys reflect the following outcomes of SRP participation:
 - 81% of Parents/Caregivers report an increase in Reading Amount
 - 80% of Parents/Caregivers report an increase in Enjoyment of Reading and Use of the Library
 - 68% of Parents/Caregivers report increase in Reading Skill.
- The new Participant Survey for teens and adults drew 119 responses, with 90% of respondents rating their program 4-5 stars.
- Summer Reading site visits to Moriarty Community Library, Bosque Farms Public Library, Rio Rancho Public Library, and Albuquerque Public Library
- As the New Mexico State CSLP State Representative, I attended the CSLP Annual Meeting, August 5-6, 2025. I continue to serve on the CSLP National Board as a Member-at-Large, the Vendor Committee, and the Summer Symposium Planning Committee.
- Planning for 2026 Summer Reading trainings and distribution of resources to libraries is underway.

Conferences/Events

Attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Albuquerque, NM, focusing on children's programming and community engagement.

Partnerships

- Visited the UNM Center for Development and Disability Library to meet new staff, learn more about their statewide resources and continue planning for training for state library staff.
- Worked with New Mexico Out of School Time Network on creation of a survey to track afterschool programming in public libraries, to launch in Fall 2025.

LDB Consultant Site Visits: As a Library Development Bureau general consultant, I made site visits to Springer Public Library, Jemez Spring Public Library, and Carnegie Public Library.

Communication Initiatives/Responsibilities:

- Monthly Youth Services Newsletter
- Youth Services Listserv
- Hitchhiker Posts and Hitchhiker Digest
- CSLP State Representative
- Social Media Manager for NMSL, coordinating with the DCA PR specialist as needed.
- Serve as Administrator for LibCal system for Events Calendar, Staff Appointments and Circulating Kits.

Upcoming Events:

Presenting at New Mexico Library Association Conference, October 22-24:

Summer Reading: Looking Back to Look Ahead; More than A Chore: Why Library Plans and Policies and Important and How to Write Them; Public Library Directors Meeting with NMSL Development Bureau

Summer Reading Trainings:

- Summer Reading 101 - October 29 and November 7
- How to Use the Online Manual – November 19
- Connect and Collaborate CSLP Summer Symposium – December 4

Public Services Bureau

Katherine Montoya, Public Services Supervisor

To better serve our staff and patrons we will be filling the Librarian Supervisor position left vacant after I moved to the position of Bureau Chief. The job was posted on the NM SPO Careers website and interviews are currently being conducted.

We were asked by New Mexico Arts to supply artwork, out of copyright, for their Ekphrastic poetry contest. The theme is *One Land Many Stories*, which connects to the 250th anniversary of the United States. A photograph of New Mexico agricultural produce displayed at the Chicago World's Fair was selected. This image came from an 1894 publication from the NM Bureau of Immigration.

To further support public libraries in their independent use of our EL Portal resources, Glenwood and T or C libraries were added to the Gale Dashboard so they can now personalize their use of the resources and check usage statistics at will, if they wish. All the public libraries should be able to use the resource in this way but I continue to send statistics out every quarter to all the public, academic, and K-12 libraries (where possible).

The National Book Festival held on September 9th was a great success. We received many compliments on our displays, gave away most of the rack cards about the NM authors chosen for 2025, and based on the number of the stickers given away we had 2772 individuals visit our booth.

As we approach an April 2026 deadline for ADA website compliance PSB is using our already existing website archiving process to more fully capture all state agency websites with a particular interest in our own website content. I met with DCA's CIO and discussed the archiving process and how we can further develop the archive for our needs.

I attended a NAGPRA meeting and will attend another in November to get a more in-depth understanding of how this act may influence our collections or at least tangentially impact our decision making with respect to our collections. In general, our collection does not contain items traditionally considered cultural property, but should something come up, we will be prepared to address it.

Federal and State Government Publications

Susanne Caro, Government Information Librarian

Every autumn the Federal Depository Library conference is held – connecting the depository libraries from across the country in discussion and decision making. On September 18, 2025, Susanne attended the preconference half day session and moderated a panel discussion on promotion of online government information materials. Preconference sessions ranged in topic from Superintendent of Documents travels to the end of the historic Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (MoCat) and the Preservation Stewards programs (we are a preservation steward.) The main conference was held September 25-26, 2025, and covered topics such as government information needs of non-English speakers, adventures in government comics and the DLC business meeting.

PSB held about a dozen maps that detailed historic Postal Routes and School Bus Routes. These were maps that functioned as working copies within the Department of Transportation until they came to our attention and we took them so they would not be destroyed. Susanne worked with the NM State Archives to transfer these maps to their care. In the archive these historic maps can be rehydrated and stored in larger cabinets that we have access to. It is wonderful to strengthen our relationship with the Archives and preserve an important piece of our state's history.

Interlibrary Loan and Circulation

Amy DiBello, MLIS ILLiad & Reference Librarian

Amy represented PSB at the ARSL conference held September 17-20, 2025. She touts it as “an enlightening experience about the challenges of rural communities. The moral courage of librarians

committed to intellectual freedom was uplifting, along with the support of a pastor and other community members who supported libraries. It was an excellent, informative conference that showed me how much I need to learn about current library events and services to discuss with my rural and tribal library colleagues. I envision some productive future ILL newsletter pieces to put my mind to.” As the ILL Librarian, Amy must keep up with ever-changing rural library situations, and this meeting helped her to establish connections with those she seeks to help with daily.

PSB has been working with the Access to Justice program in the state for several years and Amy has strengthened that relationship by being an active participant in their meetings and sharing information about the legal advice events they hold across the state. Amy secured Justice Bacon of the NM Supreme Court to present about the topic at our September All-Staff meeting. It was very informative and made many in NMSL very excited about the program and what they have in store for helping citizens with civil legal matters in the future.

Southwest Collection

Marcy Botwick, Southwest Librarian

Los Lucero’s Historic site held an event on September 21st and Marcy attended along with Jennifer McGill from LBPd. Though the event was well attended the booth only received about 40 visitors. The connections made were not many but were meaningful. Many people learning about NMReads and the NY Times access for the first time. Plans for next year include finding a better location for our booth and refining the games brought in to engage patrons.

Collaboration and connections with other DCA libraries and NM history groups will strengthen our ability to help patrons with genealogy and SW history research. On a regular basis Marcy reaches out to these groups, building relationships and ensuring we reach our potential patrons. A major goal for this position is to do more outreach and through these efforts we now have more connections in our New Mexico communities and greater use of our in-house resources.

Rural Services: Bookmobiles

Laura Gonzales, Bookmobile Staff Manager

This past quarter, our bookmobile teams continued to serve their communities with dedication, creativity, and collaboration while implementing several new improvements to strengthen service delivery statewide.

Systemwide Updates:

In September, we introduced a floating catalog, combining the collections of all three bookmobiles and the Books by Mail program. This enhancement allows patrons across the state to access a larger shared selection of materials. The teams also collaborated to develop a Bookmobile Safety Checklist, which will now be carried out in every vehicle. This step-by-step guide helps staff proactively address non-emergency issues. In addition, each bookmobile will carry a toolbox with

basic tools to support on-the-road maintenance and improve response time to minor mechanical needs.

Northeast Bookmobile:

The Northeast team had a successful summer reading program with 44 children participating and over 300 books circulated. In August, they resumed school visits and served close to 700 students during the first month of school. An outstanding return to school-based outreach.

West Bookmobile:

The West team participated in a Back-to-School event, welcoming more than 130 students aboard their bookmobile. Students, parents, and teachers enjoyed giveaways and activities that celebrated the start of the school year. The West Bookmobile was also invited to display their bookmobile at the ARSL Conference and also attended the conference, providing a valuable opportunity to showcase the program and connect with library professionals.

East Bookmobile:

Building on their earlier success, the East team is planning to add two more floating bookshelves at different community stops after seeing how well the pilot project performed. These shelves provide convenient, ongoing access to materials between bookmobile visits.

Overall:

Our bookmobile staff continues to demonstrate innovation, teamwork, and commitment to library service. All three bookmobile staff members also continue to participate in ongoing professional development and educational training, ensuring they stay current on best practices in safety, technology, and customer service. Their efforts this quarter, ranging from operational improvements to community engagement, reflect a shared dedication to reaching New Mexicans wherever they live.

RURAL SERVICES: BOOKS BY MAIL AND DELIVERY

Books by Mail

Berdina Nieto

Books by Mail maintains essential operations, continuously mailing library materials, processing returns, and actively communicating with patrons, including those who had not recently ordered materials. Currently 240 households are enrolled in Books by Mail. Weekly lists of newly cataloged new books have started to be issued to patrons to provide more frequent awareness of new titles and allows for greater detail in book summaries in an easy-to-read large print format.

Rural Outreach Specialist, Berdina Nieto, the sole staff member for the Books by Mail program, manages the above service delivery while expanding program offerings this quarter.

- Large Print Deposit Collection: Six more sets were added to the Large Print Deposit collection, bringing the new total to 58 sets distributed among 35 enrolled Public Libraries. This has increased from 52 sets and 29 libraries from previous quarter's totals.
- The Books by Mail and Bookmobile catalogs have been combined, providing patrons with access to the entire Rural Services collection while maintaining their records with their specific program. To facilitate this new access, Ms. Nieto created an easy-to-follow how-to guide for all four programs on utilizing the OPAC for all four Rural Services programs. Books by Mail reports increased enthusiasm and engagement from patrons on using the OPAC and it's tools.

Ms. Nieto effectively communicated the program's operations and importance during her presentation with State Librarian Eli Guinee and LBPD Outreach Librarian Jennifer McGill and while staffing the Department of Cultural Affairs table at the 47th Conference of Aging.

The conference included the general public, senior center staff, assisted living staff, and other programs dedicated to serving the elderly population. The following conferencegoer feedback highlights Ms. Nieto's dedication to program growth:

- I had no idea a program like this existed! I am always looking for resources for my residents and many of them enjoy reading but have a hard time seeing the print. Large print books would definitely help them out. This is wonderful work that you are doing.
- Oh wow! I'll be sure to get my mom in touch with you, because this is a program she could definitely enjoy! Getting large print books for her by mail will be such a blessing. I appreciate all of the information. I hope you'll be available to present about your program at one of our senior events because this is such a great service. I'm surprised that it is not more well known throughout the state!
- I saw your sign and at first I thought it was silly, "Books by Mail - why bother when you can get books on your phone or buy them easily online," but after speaking with you, I didn't realize that there were still people that could not even do that because of where they live or because they can't leave home. I didn't even know that large print was a thing! This is all very impressive. I'm sorry I approached you negatively, and I appreciate you taking the time to explain it to an old fool like me. You're very patient and have good humor! The Department of Cultural Affairs is lucky to have you.

The following patron feedback highlights Ms. Nieto's dedication to established patrons:

- "I had started feeling left out when most of my requests were in hardback, which I can't always hold due to my arthritis so I am thankful that you took the time to learn what I liked so that you can send me large print in paperback. While I'm not ready to give up my print books, I'm glad you told me about the audio book library there. It's something to think about and I hope you start getting newer large print in paperback. You're wonderful!"

- "I had recommended one of my patrons who needed large print and she was really excited to begin Books by Mail. She spent 30 minutes raving about how kind and helpful you were. Thank you so much for helping her." - Magdalena Library (They receive large print sets)
- Thank you for your transparency and care! BBM has been a lifeline for me and I greatly appreciate your service!"
- "I appreciate you taking the time to explain how the program works. I'm very happy that this service exists and kindhearted people like you work there."
- "You have such a great customer service voice and style! I never feel hesitant about calling when I have a question or need something because you're so nice and clear. And patient! Thank you for your service!"
- Every time I see the mailman come with an envelope of books, it is the highlight of my day! So thank you!
- Thank you both [Books by Mail and Bookmobiles] for all the great work you do. We appreciate it especially since we country folk need all the books we can have.

Delivery

Guillermo Martinez

Delivery Services started off Q1 strong, successfully completing their third round of scheduled visits this quarter. Guillermo Martinez, the sole Delivery staff member, has been communicative and transparent with unexpected changes and cancellations with affected libraries and is optimistic about the fourth round visits.

He's been continuously delivering the following items to libraries with the addition of the general book club sets and Reading is Healthy book club sets: copies of El Palacio, Stem Kits, Poetry Banners, Women's History Banner sets, and Large Print Deposit Sets from Books by Mail.

Guillermo has been actively connecting libraries to multiple NMSL program staff and promoting items that are currently priority based on local need such as Digital Equity's Get Set Up project, which has seen an increase in usage due to his direct communication efforts. He provides contact information for the Development Bureau when questions from library staff arise regarding grants or administrative questions. He has also provided a couple of library to library deliveries for four public libraries by picking up books and moving them to the next library. He has also been a crucial link for one public library cataloging partnership with NMSL's Tech Services Bureau.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Joseph Angelo, Bureau Chief

Changes in the Bureau

No major staffing changes occurred in the Technical Services Bureau this quarter. The cataloger position that Sarah Obenauf left continues to be vacant after almost six months. Our lone cataloger, Bradley Carrington, is fortunately very capable, but we still need another cataloger to adequately address the volume of materials that are coming into the Bureau. I sincerely hope that we'll be able to post and fill the cataloger position soon.

New Mexico State Library Activity

Sarah Obenauf and I reconfigured our Symphony ILS (Integrated Library System) to allow Rural Services (Bookmobiles and Books by Mail) materials to float between libraries. This not only enables more efficient sharing of materials between the libraries, but it also gives Rural Services patrons access to materials held at other Rural Services locations. Sarah set up a system so that the Bookmobiles can bring their unwanted items to the State Library warehouse instead of discarding the materials. By holding these books in the warehouse, they remain available to other bookmobiles and Rural Services patrons. The Bookmobiles have limited space, both on the bookmobile and in their respective offices, so this change will allow them to acquire new materials without having to discard older materials to make space. Once these changes were implemented, Sarah and I worked with Bookmobile Staff Manager, Laura Gonzales, to setup staff trainings and new workflows.

Sarah attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries 2025 conference in Albuquerque. She attended cataloging specific presentations and networked with colleagues. She also used the opportunity to connect with other New Mexico librarians and staff and let them know that the Technical Services Bureau is available to help with cataloging and other Technical Services needs.

Sarah continues to work on strategies that will ease the burden of making the State Library website meet the new April 2026 Accessibility standards. We have reduced the number of active website editors and plan to streamline the number of website pages. We're also training staff in easy ways to make their posts and pages more accessible by adding Alt text and using the correct headings.

PCC Activity

The PCC (Program for Cooperative Cataloging) is a Library of Congress facilitated international cataloging cooperative that promotes and produces extremely high-quality cataloging.

There has been minimal PCC activity on the national level this quarter. This is typical for this time of year as most PCC participants are large academic libraries who are generally less active in the summer months. However, the Technical Services Bureau continued contributing bibliographic and authority records, subject headings and Library of Congress classification numbers to PCC throughout the summer.

SALSA Consortium

I am very happy to announce that the New Mexico Department of Transportation library has joined the SALSA Consortium. Amy Boggess, the librarian at NMDOT reached out to us at the beginning of the quarter. She was hired to revive the library which had effectively been shut down in 2013. Sarah and I have set up and configured Symphony for the new NMDOT library. We plan to set up the OPAC and public facing components in the next quarter.

I have been working a few days at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture's Laboratory of Anthropology Library. The State Library has been helping staff the library after Allison Colborne, the former librarian at the Laboratory of Anthropology, retired in July. Allison was not interested in joining SALSA. Because of this stance, at least among the DCA libraries, the Laboratory of Anthropology was somewhat of an outlier. With Allison's departure, we are beginning the process of bringing the library into SALSA. This process will involve a migration from the Laboratory's Koha ILS to our SirsiDynix Symphony system.

Sarah and I visited both the Museum of International Folk Art library and the National Hispanic Culture Center library quite a few times this quarter. During these visits, we've assisted with cataloging questions and ILS troubleshooting. The Technical Services Bureau is also helping these libraries with original cataloging for some of their rare and unusual books. I'm continuing to assist the Nuevo Mexicano Heritage Arts Museum in setting up their new library. We've also helped them with original cataloging as well as general library consultations. They are hoping to have their new library open to the public by Winter 2025.

NMLA Activity

Brad, Sarah and I are preparing and excited for our Copy "Cataloging Demystified" Pre-conference workshop. We will spend the morning helping participants understand the MARC standard and how they can find the best bibliographic record for their copy cataloging. Sarah is giving a lightning talk titled: "TSB is TCB: Helping You "Make Due" with What You Didn't Know You Had." I will also be facilitating the Technical Services SIG meeting.

Outreach and Technical Services Consulting

We continue to help the Villanueva Public Library with cataloging the donated Southwest Acupuncture College collection. Our delivery driver Guillermo Martinez recently brought nine boxes of books for us to catalog. Once the cataloging is finished, Guillermo will bring those boxes back and hopefully bring us another batch.

STATISTICAL REPORT

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 Q1
				July-Sep
LBDP				
Duplication Circ (# books on cartridges)	114,799	115,300	127,277	32,847
Duplication Cartridges Out	19,263	18,393	18,106	4,642
Duplication Patrons (average monthly)	446	427	480	503
Bard Downloads	32,168	35,782	36,983	9,425
Bard Patrons (average monthly)	187	194	207	226
Number of Outreach Visits			49	5
Volunteer Hours	262	262	309	72
			-	
PSB				
Gate Count	6,461	6,664	5,431	335
Circulation	1,643	1,832	1,674	373
Databases	3,986,413	4,657,188	3,352,010	438,298
Reference Questions	5,005	3,872	5,339	437
ILL	5,329	4,931	6,301	497
Computer Usage	947	592	632	61
			-	
Technical Services				
new bibliographic records	21,862	23,264	37,982	2,356
new item records	20,541	24,417	41,489	3,233
new serial issues	3,941	3,446	3,589	720
Original Cataloging	235	397	744	80

Copy Cataloging	14,070	10,720	7,388	1,413
PCC Contributions (BIBCO, SACO, CIP, etc)	600	1,381	909	270
CIP records	104	117	41	27
Outreach/Sites Visits			11	7

	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 Q1
Books by Mail				

Circulation		2,762	3,581	622
Number of Patrons		297	219	240
LP Deposit Circulation		60	1,772	680

Bookmobiles			-	
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East Circulation		2,298	3,872	857
East Patrons		239	283	526
East Number of Stops			29	81
Northeast Circulation		13,001	14,345	2,342
Northeast Number of Stops			33	87
Northeast Patrons		739	777	1,452
West Circulation		5,081	7,741	1,507
West Patrons		338	345	186
West Number of Stops			33	80

Library Development Bureau				
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Number of Site Visits			202	21
Number of Participants at Site Visits			220	70

Number of Online Meetings	4,418	81
Number of Other Events		97
Number of Listserv Postings		102
Number of Listserv Recipients		10,359
Number of Newsletters Sent		4
Number of Newsletter Recipients		1,622

*some data unavailable or not previously collected