




## KEY HIGHLIGHTS IN THE HISTORY OF NEW MEXICO'S TRIBAL LIBRARIES

### Serving as a model for North American Tribal Library Initiatives

- 1974 Library Aide Training Institute for American Indians was funded. Lotsee Smith, faculty member of University of New Mexico was the Administrator.
- 1974 Liz Wacando, is hired as the librarian at Laguna Pueblo. Note: Laguna Pueblo Library had been established in 1968 by Vista Volunteers. By 1974, the library was operating out of an old schoolhouse.
- 1975 LSTA Grant to establish Tribal Libraries including the Pueblos of Laguna, Santo Domingo, Acoma, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Zuni, Cochiti, Jemez and Zia starting with Library Aides.
- 1976 Native American Libraries Roundtable organized under the NM Library Association. One of the original Native American Libraries Roundtable founders Lee Platero, Dine, designs the logo. Inspired by the bear as a protector, he designs and inserts two bear claws (one brown and one white) into a repetitive positive circular space. Circle is the life way. Colors indicate Indian and Anglos cultures and people.
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- 1978 New Mexico Conference on Libraries and Information Services held in Santa Fe.
- 1978 Liz Wacando is a delegate to the Denver All Indian Conference which identifies items for the future White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.
- 1979 White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services is held in Washington, DC.
- 1989 National Commission on Libraries & Information Science hearings (NCLIS 1970-2008) in Santa Fe, NM (NCLIS is predecessor to IMLS established in 2008)
- 1992 Pathways to Excellence: A report on Improving Library and Information Services for Native American Peoples is published by the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.
- 1994 State Senator Leonard Tsosie (Navajo) secures \$500K to establish the Native American Library project from the NM State Legislature. Funds provide computers with internet services to ten Pueblos, two Apache nations and 11 Navajo Chapter Houses on the eastern portion of the Navajo reservation in NM.
- 1996 Crownpoint Resource Center was established by NM State Library on the Navajo Reservation to provide library services and computer training for Eastern and Northern agencies on the Navajo Nation.

- 1997 Jean Whitehorse is hired as Library Tech for the Crownpoint Resource Center. 1997- Present
- 1997 K'awaika Laguna Pueblo Public Library opened in November of 1997 due to work of Liz Wacando obtaining a U.S. Housing and Urban Development Grant of \$187,000, along with funding from NM Public Education of \$30,000, and Department and Pueblo of Laguna funds of \$35,000.
- 1997 Staff from Tribal Library Program met with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation representatives. Thus, Gates Foundation perceived the need to expand their public library grants to tribal communities.
- Alison Freese becomes the Tribal Library Coordinator. 1997 – 2003.
- 2000 IMLS National Leadership Grant: Five –State American Indian Project 1998-2001 improving services to tribal libraries, museums and archives in NM, AZ, CO. MV and UT.
- 2001 Tsosie obtained 1.5M in Capital Outlay funds to plan, design, construct, equip and furnish library technology additions to existing Navajo Chapter Houses in McKinley and San Juan counties.
- 2002 Gates Foundation Grant awarded through Native American Access to Technology Program which provided for Internet satellite connections.
- 2003 Dana John becomes the Tribal Library Coordinator Tenure: 2003-2005
- 2005 Mildred Walters becomes the Tribal Library Coordinator Tenure: 2005-2008
- 2006 Tribal Libraries Leadership Institute sponsored by Santa Fe Indian School
- 2008 House Memorial passed the NM State Legislature to assess the needs of Tribal Libraries, resulting in the 2008 report from Indian Affairs and NMSL.
- Tribal Libraries participate in a retreat at NM State Library. All Tribal Librarians are certified and proctored by Mildred Walters, Tribal Library Coordinator at that time.
- Honoring A Legacy, Elizabeth Wacando* presented at the NM Library Association.
- 2009 Tribal Libraries in New Mexico – a position paper on the House Memorial 59  
Assessment of Tribal Libraries' Operation & Financial Needs: Finding and Recommendations.
- Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM) recognizes Jemez Pueblo Community Library with the Guardian Award – Library Institutional Excellence Award
- 2012 *New Mexico Tribal Libraries: Where Dreams Take Flight* an ATALM presentation with examples from the Tribal Libraries of the Pueblos of Laguna, Acoma, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Jemez, and Isleta.
- 2013 Alana McGrattan is hired as Tribal Library Coordinator after five year vacancy. 2013-2018
- Under McGrattan's leadership the Tribal Libraries are required to annually apply for IMLS Tribal Library Basic Grants in order to qualify for NM State Grants in Aid for Tribal Libraries.

- 2015 Tribal Library Retreat facilitated by Leadership Institute at the Santa Fe Indian School headed up by Regis Pecos and Carnell Chosa.
- 2015 Financial Literacy Training conducted with First National Development Institute – RE: Pay Day Loans.
- 2016 *Press Record: Stories from the StoryCorps Tribal Libraries Program* an ATALM presentation examples from these tribal libraries: Pueblos of Laguna, Jemez, Santa Clara, and Santo Domingo, Mescalero Tribe.
- 2017 Five tribal libraries – Laguna, Mescalero, Santo Domingo, Santa Clara and Jemez participate in Digital Community Memory in Tribal Libraries for History Pin website. The grant is funded by Knight Foundation and IMLS.
- 2017 Kimball Sekaquaptewa, from AMERIND risk now Chief Technology Director with the Santa Fe Indian School identifies potential of USAC - E-Rate program to deploy high speed internet lit with fiber to the Tribal Libraries of NM. Also, connects back to Santa Fe Indian School for long distance learning with Indigenous Language instruction.
- 2017 Indigenous Digital Archives – a free online resource opens on Indigenous People’s Day Oct.9, 2017. A partnership of Museum of Indian Art and Culture, NM State Library and Indian Pueblo Cultural Center with funding provided by IMLS Leadership Grants, Knight Foundation and National Historic Records Advisory Board grants.
- 2017 Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM) recognizes Laguna Pueblo Library with the Guardian Award – Library Institutional Excellence Award – Janice Kowemy, Library Director.



L to R: Valerie Fernando, Janice Kowemy, Lynnelle Aragon and Maine Lucero

- 2017 *Building Bridges with Your State Library and Legislators: The New Mexico Model*  
An ATALM presentation by Library Directors: Janice Kowemy, Teresa Naranjo and Lillian Chavez.
- 2017 *Keeping the Community Engaged: Public Programming in Tribal Libraries*, an ATALM presentation by Library Directors Janice Kowemy and Nathan Lujan

- 2018 Rep. Ben Ray Lujan and FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel visit Santo Domingo Tribal Library to address digital divide with Tribal Librarians.
- 2018 Through a \$4M E-rate grant the Middle Rio Grande Pueblo Tribal Consortium establishes a tribally-owned fiber optic educational network to serve Tribal Libraries: Pueblos of Cochiti, San Felipe, Santa Ana and Santo Domingo.
- 2018 Pueblo Connect a National Science Foundation Grant awarded to the University of California – Santa Barbara (and three partner universities) of \$2M for a three year project to install and train selected New Mexico tribal library sites that are customers of RediNet. The project will explore RediNet’s middle mile and utilize 1st Mile Institute last mile broadband deployment expertise.
- 2018 INTERNET2 IMLS GRANT: Toward Gigabit Libraries Project:  
An IMLS grant award to San Jose State University –School of Information of \$249,882 partners with NMSL to collaborate with NM Tribal Libraries to explore improving Tribal internet connectivity, equity, and inclusion through the design and implementation of several TV Whitespace (TVWS) networks statewide.
- 2019 IMLS hosts Tribal Libraries Convening in Washington DC to assist them in Guiding IMLS Funding to Meet the Need of Tribal Librarians and Their Communities. Joy Poole, Deputy State Librarian and Lillian Chavez, Library Director and President of American Indian Library Association (2018-2019) represent New Mexico Tribal Libraries.
- 2019 ALA sends a researcher to NM on assignment to write a report on Broadband for Tribal Libraries.
- 2019 Another \$3.2 M E-Rate Grant to establish the Jemez Tribal Library Consortium for Jemez and Zia Pueblos. These tribally owned networks are exponentially faster at a fraction of the cost.
- 2019 FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks visits New Mexico Tribal Communities to Learn about broadband challenges. He visits Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc. then the Pueblos of San Felipe and Santo Domingo. Cynthia Aguilar, Santo Domingo Pueblo Library Director compared the impact of broadband connectivity to the arrival of the railroad to the Pueblos over a century ago.
- 2019 American Libraries magazine highlights the top dissertations from Library and Information Science schools. Sandra Littletree, Ph.D. (Dine on her father’s side and Shoshone on her mother’s side) is recognized for her dissertation “Let Me Tell You About Indian Libraries”: Self-Determination, Leadership, and Vision — The Basis of Tribal Library Development in the United States towards her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Her dissertation explores the historical development of tribal libraries, with a view toward the design of current and future library services.
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- 2019 Faye Hadley is hired as Tribal Library Coordinator.
- 2019 New Mexico Tribal Librarians participate in a retreat held at Isleta Pueblo organized by the New Mexico State Library.
- 2019 Faye Hadley submits a proposal for the 2019 Association of Tribal Archives, Museums and Libraries. The program *Tribal Librarians in the Field: On the Go!* is presented by Maureen Wacondo, Library Director - Jemez Pueblo Community Library, Janice Kowemy, Librarian/Director, Laguna Public Library and Joy Poole, Deputy State Librarian of the New Mexico State Library.

- 2019 Joy Poole, Deputy State Librarian from the NM State Library and Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Chief Technology Director with the Santa Fe Indian School presents a program at the Mountain Plains Library Association meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The program is titled *Crossing the Digital Divide along the Continental Divide*. Program features the Middle Rio Grande and Jemez-Zia tribal consortiums, along with another consortium of public libraries and school plus six individual libraries participating in the Libraries for Broadband pilot project including Santa Clara Pueblo Community Library.
- 2019 Faye Hadley. Tribal Library Coordinator from the NM State Library presents a program *Top Websites for Indian Law Research* at the Mountain Plains Library Association annual conference.