

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM™ NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Libraries Assessment 2016

The New Mexico Library Foundation announces the release of the *2016 New Mexico Libraries Assessment*. This comprehensive report examines the current state of New Mexico's public, tribal, school, academic and special libraries.

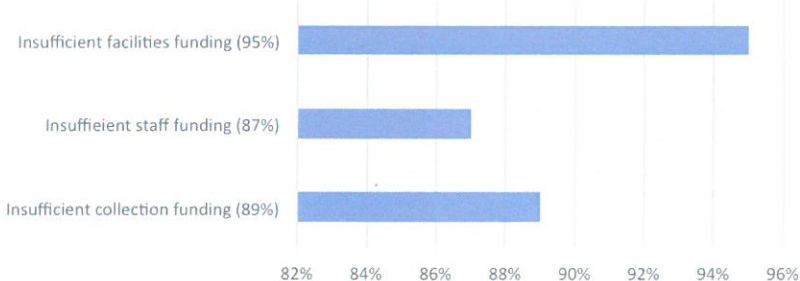
NMLF recognizes the economic challenges posed by New Mexico's current budget situation. Thinking beyond the current shortfall, however, the 2016 Assessment identifies issues and makes recommendations that are vital to improving libraries in our state both now and into the future.

The Assessment shows both the ways that years of underfunding have impacted our libraries and also a path forward that will enable them to provide significantly expanded educational, quality of life, and economic benefits to the citizens and communities of New Mexico.

KEY FINDINGS

- New Mexico's library landscape is unique, rich and diverse.
- Adequate funding is a critical issue for virtually all New Mexico libraries, because the existing funding mechanisms do not generate enough support.
- 88% of New Mexico libraries reported flat or shrinking budgets in the last three years, yet 92% say their expenses have increased or stayed the same.
- Libraries work hard (often with limited resources) to provide relevant, high quality collections that positively impact the lives of their patrons.
- Limited or inadequate staffing frequently limits the ability of all types of New Mexico libraries to provide quality service.
- Libraries strive to bridge the digital divide and to keep up with advancing technology, but are held back by lack of broadband access, outdated hardware and limited e-resources.
- For almost all New Mexico libraries, the quality of their facility (or facilities) hinders their ability to serve their communities.
- To the extent that capacity allows, New Mexico libraries are active collaborators.

Percentage of NM Libraries reporting insufficient funding, by category...



Imagine What Libraries Could Accomplish With Your Support and Sustainable Funding ...

At the statewide level, New Mexico library directors identified several issues and challenges, including formal cooperation, resource allocation, advocacy, and testing in school libraries.

Compared to other U.S. states, New Mexico has a limited infrastructure for library resource sharing, such as shared catalogs or courier services, and some assessment participants questioned the current allocation of public library resources at the state level. Both library supporters and staff emphasize the need for sustained advocacy on behalf of New Mexico libraries. And, the increased prevalence of utilizing school libraries for mandatory testing is having a negative effect across New Mexico.



Bilingual Storytime at the National Hispanic Cultural Center Library

Libraries Transform Lives Everyday, in Every Community in NM

Despite the many challenges they face, New Mexico libraries can take pride in their many achievements.

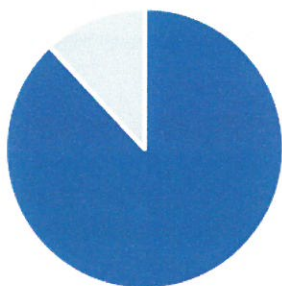
New Mexico voters consistently support local and statewide library measures, a strong indication of the perceived value of the state's libraries. In 2014, library GO bonds, which benefit academic, school, public and tribal libraries, passed by a resounding 62.9%.

Reflecting the state's remarkable geography, history and demographics, New Mexico's libraries are a priceless asset, and include 93 public and tribal libraries, 29 academic libraries, school libraries serving 89 school districts and private schools, and special libraries.

Although New Mexico's libraries are diverse, they share a common commitment to offering services that supports several key common values. Libraries support student success, lifelong learning and they preserve resources and cultural assets. In the last five years, a significant number of New Mexico libraries have added new services, such as maker-spaces, support for job seekers, computer literacy training and library programming.

40% of New Mexico libraries reported that they do not offer broadband internet service - only 7% reported having no technology issues at their library.

88% of NM libraries report flat or shrinking budgets over the last three years



■ Flat or Shrinking Budget (88%) ■ Increasing Budget (12%)



Family Research at the ABQ/Bernalillo County Special Collections Library Genealogy Center

More Findings...

- *Partnerships & resource sharing opportunities: more important than ever in the current fiscal climate*
- *Infrastructure challenges & a lack of network access inhibit collaborative efforts*
- *New Mexico needs improved Internet access & sustained library support more than ever!*



Professional Development Days in the School Library. TISNM Charter School



The New Mexico Library Foundation is a New Mexico 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Our mission is to support New Mexico libraries by providing grants to libraries to build and maintain their collections, update information access technology and enhance library programs.

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