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HOUSE MEMORIAL 48

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Deborah A. Armstrong

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO STATE LIBRARY TO SUPPORT A NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT OF NEW MEXICO LIBRARIES AND TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST  
WITH A STATEWIDE CONFERENCE TO IDENTIFY POLICIES AND GOALS FOR  
IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICES.

WHEREAS, with the dawn of the digital age, libraries in  
New Mexico and across the United States are no longer only  
repositories of books; and

WHEREAS, like the rest of American society, the library's  
role in the community has been transformed by the digital age;  
and

WHEREAS, libraries have become service centers for many  
New Mexicans who need free access to computer and internet  
services, including residents in rural and underserved  
populations in New Mexico; and

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1           WHEREAS, according to a study completed by the university  
2 of New Mexico's bureau of business and economic research, New  
3 Mexico's public libraries provided public access to one  
4 thousand four hundred thirty-three computers in fiscal year  
5 2011, with each library branch averaging twelve public-access  
6 computers; and

7           WHEREAS, online access has become increasingly important  
8 for multiple purposes; and

9           WHEREAS, more businesses require applicants to apply for a  
10 job online, while employment with the state of New Mexico is  
11 only conducted through online applications, and most job  
12 notices today are posted online exclusively; and

13           WHEREAS, the American library association reports that for  
14 the third consecutive year, services for job seekers remain the  
15 top-rated internet service that libraries provide; and

16           WHEREAS, libraries are being called upon to provide  
17 technology training, assistance with job applications and  
18 support for accessing electronic government and social  
19 services; and

20           WHEREAS, students at all levels require access to internet  
21 and computer-based resources for educational purposes, and more  
22 people are using computers and the internet to keep in touch  
23 with families and colleagues; and

24           WHEREAS, libraries provide educational programming and  
25 services for Native American and Spanish language users; and

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1           WHEREAS, funding for libraries was cut in New Mexico and  
2 across the nation as a result of the economic recession, and  
3 New Mexico libraries are challenged to meet these real and  
4 increasing demands; and

5           WHEREAS, there are one hundred four public libraries,  
6 including branch libraries, in New Mexico; and

7           WHEREAS, there are ninety-two school districts with eight  
8 hundred twenty-one school libraries in New Mexico; and

9           WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven academic research,  
10 comprehensive, branch and community college libraries and  
11 nineteen tribal libraries in New Mexico; and

12           WHEREAS, there is a need for libraries and policymakers to  
13 assess the expanded role of libraries and to identify the  
14 necessary resources needed to properly fulfill this role; and

15           WHEREAS, there is a need for libraries and policymakers to  
16 develop policies to provide future services to New Mexico  
17 residents to achieve the goals of improved quality of life and  
18 the enhanced economic well-being of its residents;

19           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico  
21 state library, which serves as the support agency for all  
22 libraries, be requested to support a needs assessment of New  
23 Mexico libraries; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico state library  
25 be requested to support and assist library organizations in New

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1 Mexico to convene a statewide library conference to develop and  
2 adopt policies to achieve goals for improved library services;  
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 transmitted to the state librarian of the library division of  
6 the cultural affairs department and to the president of the New  
7 Mexico library association.