

Introduction

For this assignment, I have chosen to focus on the New Mexico State Library and its role as a Federal Depository Library. The library was established in 1929 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and services all of the state, including the general public, state agencies, tribal nations, citizens with visual and auditory disabilities, academics, and citizens conducting research. The goal of this institution is to provide effective library services to all areas of the states and promote widespread access to information to all citizens of the state. Services are available through the library physical location as well as online and on delivery-request, which is focused on serving New Mexico's rural communities and those without their own public library branches.

The Federal Depository Library Program

The Federal Depository Library Program was established in the early 1800s by Congress under 44 U.S.C. § 19 to ensure that the citizens of the United States had public access to different government and congressional information. An incredibly large amount of information and documentation is available through these institutions, such as books, maps, periodicals, historical publications, and other important documents of varying topics, as well as information on the military, science, health, technology, travel, and more. While ultimately founded by Congress, it is the United States Government Publishing Office that now oversees the program and administers the materials to the Depository Libraries.

Within this important designation, assigned libraries can either be registered as a Regional Depository Library or a Selective Depository Library. Regional Depository Libraries are limited to two per state and are required to retain all copies of government documents that they receive, regardless of topic or type, and hold a certain level of other responsibilities to their surrounding libraries such as disposal of materials. Selective Depository Libraries, on the other hand, are limited to two per Congressional district, and only receive certain classes of documents from the Government. The Selective Depository Libraries will choose the classes of documents they will receive from a master list based on what information and materials would best serve their patrons. These libraries can be found across the continental United States and its existing islands and territories and are nominated by the Director of Government Publishing Office.

The New Mexico State Library as an FDL

As taken from their Federal Depository Library entry, the New Mexico State Library (Depository Library #0386) was designated as a Depository Library in 1960 and currently serves as a Selective Depository Library within Congressional district 03, in addition to its general continuation as a state library. Their grouping within the National Collection Service Area they are located in is the West territories. The collection(s) stored within the New Mexico State Library is considerably large for a selective depository, currently containing over 1,000,000 volumes in the library. Their Federal Depository Library entry makes no specific mention of their collections or partnerships, but do have most collected documents that were produced after 1976 digitized for their patrons to view. Their main website states that the focus of their collections are "documents published before 1976, maps, and other specialized materials". Their parent Regional Depository Library is the Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico (academic library), located in Albuquerque, NM and their "parent institution" is indicated to be

the Department of Cultural Affairs. Conflictingly, the New Mexico State Library's website states that they "serve as a Regional Federal Depository Library for the State of New Mexico. In partnership with the University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University, the State Library provides consulting services, training and technical assistance for selective Federal Depository libraries in the state and Federal Government information and assistance to any library in the state". This may simply be a misuse of words as their online entry states otherwise, or a recent change that has not been updated adequately.

I. Collections: Federal

The Federal Publications collection of documents and materials is accessible to patrons both in physical and digital formats. This collection houses information from as early as 1976 to present day, with a wide array of topics, document types, and formats available for users to use. Along with its internal sources, the New Mexico State Library links their collection to a couple of other major databases such as Library of Congress, Hathi Trust, DPLA, and TRAIL, which is accessible through the library's online database system. The online portion of this collection contains roughly ~113,000 files, which are split into four subcollections: (1) All New Mexico Digital State Publications (FDLP), (2) New Mexico Geology, (3) El Palacio, and (4) Executive Orders (2003-). In addition to the previously mentioned materials, the library does have several historical sets from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, though they are only mainly viewable in person as few have been added online. Some of these collections include Civil War records, Bureau of Ethnology reports, World War I/II histories, and much more pertaining to our nation's history. Many of the other subsets of this collection are related to specific government agencies, respective offices, and programs.

II. Collections: State

The State Collection and State Depository Library Program exist hand-in-hand with each other as they are incredibly extensive collections of current and historical documents of New Mexico state agencies. Topics covering health, education, history/culture/art, energy, economics, agriculture, tourism, and taxes are included in the forms of reports, maps, periodicals, directories, laws, and more publication types. The intention behind these collections are for the public use and provide vital educational, economical, personal, civic, legislative, and academic information to New Mexico citizens. These records are available through the library's online catalog, their online archive, the NM State Government Agencies Archive, or through interlibrary loan requests/the local depository. The online catalog has approximately ~412,600 items available for patron use.

Specifically highlighted as digitized collections are the Agricultural Extension Service and Experiment Station publications which contains over 100 years of preserved documents, and LoboVault, which is a repository of scholarly publications. More pointedly at the State Depository Library Program, the New Mexico State Library is home to the State Depository Clearinghouse, which requires all state agencies to drop 30 physical and 5 digital copies (or just one digital copy if not intended for physical publication) of all publications into the Clearinghouse. These copies are then distributed between a variety of different institutions and offices such as the library, State Records and Archives Center, the Library of Congress, and other depository libraries in the area.

III. Collections: Others

The New Mexico State Library has three other major collections that they have stored within their physical and digital collections, which are their (1) Newspaper Collection, (2) the Southwest Collection, and (3) the Maps Collection.

Newspapers: This collection of current and historic print newspapers contains thousands of print and microfilm reels of newspapers dating all the way back to 1849. While mainly dedicated to various New Mexico prints, there is an active subscription to the New York Times through the library, of which their resources are then accessible to users. The library also has two online resources for historic newspaper collections, the Chronicling America and the UNM Digital collection, and three general databases for more current releases, which are EL Portal, Newsbank, and the Obituary Database.

Southwest Collection: This is another incredible physical and digital collection that combines many of the resources found within the previously mentioned State and Federal collections. Along with other supplemented materials, this collection contains an abundance of other materials representing the culture, art, populations, government, environment, and development of the Southwest region of the United States. Some of the materials in the collection include newspapers, maps, fiction and non-fiction texts, historical and genealogical periodicals, publication from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, census records, and Colonial and Land grant resources to name a few.

Maps: There are seven sections to this collection, which are the (1) USGS Topographical Maps, (2) the National Forest, Park, and Trail Maps, (3) USDA Maps, (4) Census Maps, (5) Sanborn Maps, (6) Aerial Photography Maps, and (7) Historic Maps. These maps are mainly available for viewing in their physical formats within the library, but most have been added in a digital format as well. All sections of this collection represent the state of New Mexico, whether it is highlighting their revolutionized landscape, Indian territories, industrial growth, environmental changes, and more. There are a lot of links to government resources outside of the library's digital space that patrons can explore while still being able to reference back to the library's extensive map collection, as well as the State and Federal Collections.

IV. Other Resources

There is an inexplicable amount of other exciting resources that are easily accessible through the New Mexico State Library. Between their programing for individuals with visual and auditory disabilities, mobile library services for rural communities, professional development videos and workshops, and a research center that encapsulates all of their collections, 41+ LibGuides, microfilms, videos, and other materials, there is no lack of resources for any patron's need. Their 41+ LibGuides cover topics that range from library and collection use, access to justice, census information, new additions to their collections, UFOs, and voting. There is no shortage of information or connection to internal and external resources within this library. Everything from federal to local and tribal government resources are connected to the library's online presence through active links, items in their collections, or by regulation under the Federal Depository Library Program.

Personal Thoughts

After digging through the New Mexico State Library's webpage, I can confidently say that this is an absolutely awesome institution with such a rich and deep connection to their community, their programs, and their goals and values as a library. Whether it is through the organization of their resources, the sheer volume of resources (as part of the Federal Depository Library Program and not), or the development of so many different programs to ensure that every major and minor population is able to have the same experience in their library, and have the same access to all the materials. They are very forthcoming with all information and links regarding their collections and status within the Federal Depository Library Program and State Clearinghouse program, and seem to have very active connections with their neighboring Regional Libraries at the University of the New Mexico and New Mexico State University. Within their scope as a Federal Depository Library, I feel as though this library contributes a lot to the program by creating such open access to their materials, physical and digital, by constantly expanding their collections whether regionally or federally focused, and enriching their patrons with knowledge of all types, spectrums, and facets. The Southwest Region is notoriously rich in culture and history given its different populations, bordering territories and countries, and the general expansion of the United States. Its assumptive, given the relationship this library holds with its neighboring institutions and state agencies, that it holds a high regard within its Western Region of the Federal Depository Program and hold a unique wealth of information and materials. To add to their ardor to information accessibility, the New Mexico State Library is also subscribed to an online system termed "SALSA" which stands for System Access to Libraries in State Agencies, further promoting the access to publications and other publicly made materials accessible to the patrons of any one of the subscribing institutions. The dedication and combined efforts in establishing their main collections under the Federal Depository Library Program along with their other internal collections and materials promotes significant abundance and compliance with their institutional message of providing effective library services to all areas of the states and promote widespread access to information to all citizens of the state. The library's ability to capture this within their multitude of collections, resources, and programs demonstrates such an astonishing level of interconnectedness between the library's mission, the information they store, and the communities they serve.

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