



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
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Research and Climate Bureau Library Update

New Mexico Department of Transportation





Welcome to the story of our reopening!

- Overview of the Research and Climate Bureau building
- History of the Research Bureau Library and timeline of closure
- Use of the space during closure
- Reopening and hiring of a Librarian
- Progress made over the past year
- Lessons learned
- Goals for the upcoming year
- Benefits and challenges of shared space

RCB Building

NMDOT General Office is in Santa Fe. We are centrally located in Albuquerque on the District 3 campus, close to the Big I of I-40 and I-25. Built in 2003, our building houses the Library in the middle, with staff offices and Alternative Workspace cubicles around the outer walls. It's very common for GO staff traveling around the state to stop here for a break or to gas up on campus. Our building is also a very popular meeting/training venue because of newer facilities and a full-size kitchen.

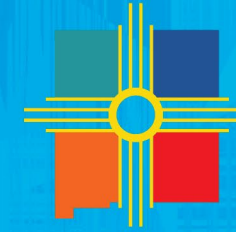
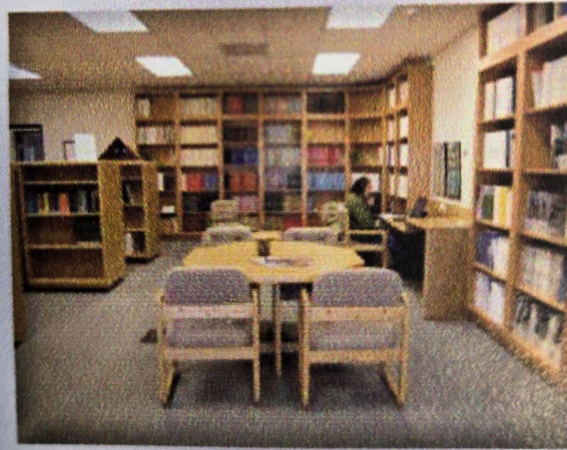


History of Library

There used to be a Planning Division library at the GO in Santa Fe. That presumably was moved down to ABQ when the Research Building was built in 2003. Krystina Cherry was the Librarian at the time. She retired roughly 2013-2014. I believe the space functioned as a library until roughly 2018-2019 under a different librarian. After he left, it wasn't staffed for a while, and then a disgruntled Bureau Chief ordered it all boxed up and put into storage around 2021-2022 without the consent of the GO Executives in Santa Fe.

Obtain reimbursement by the pooled
Suggest research and technology tran
transportation.

ooled Fund Quarterly Reports are on th
p://www.libraryconnectivity.org/about



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r projects.
d hard copies of study products, such as the
to annual meetings.
n library and information service topics for



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During Closure



The New Librarian (me)



It took them a few years to be able to hire a new Librarian, but the position was advertised around February 2025. I started in mid-June and began working with the remaining materials inside of the building first due to summer heat.

First things first:

- Networking and getting to know the transportation sector
- Established relationship with the New Mexico State Library
- Needs assessment and department-wide survey

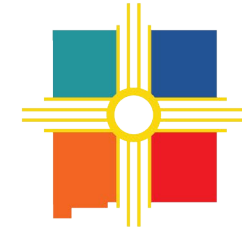


The Storage Shed

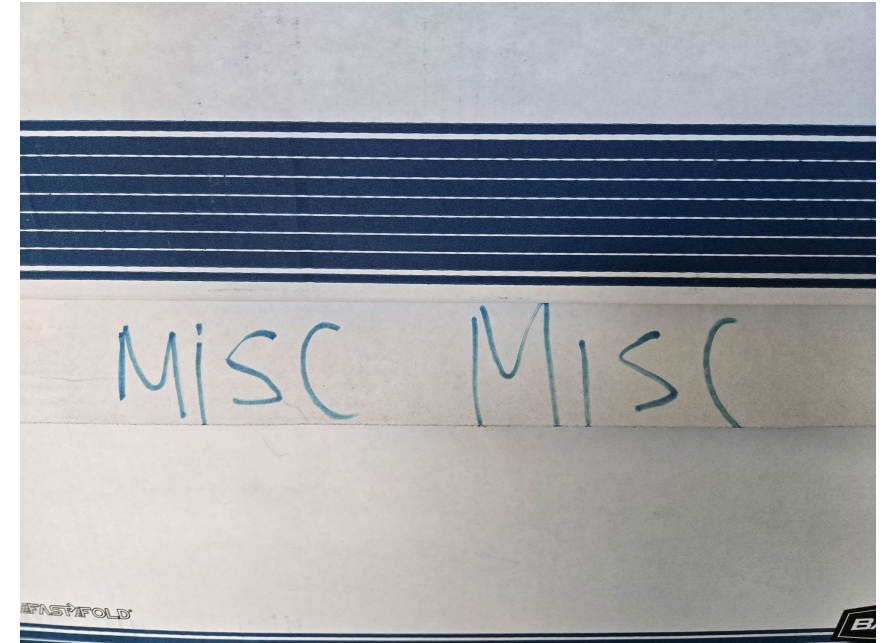


I started bringing in boxes from the storage shed in Fall 2025. To combat dust, all items were unboxed and cleaned outside. Some materials had sustained water damage and needed to be discarded. I had everything back in the building by around February 2026.

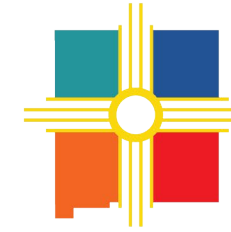




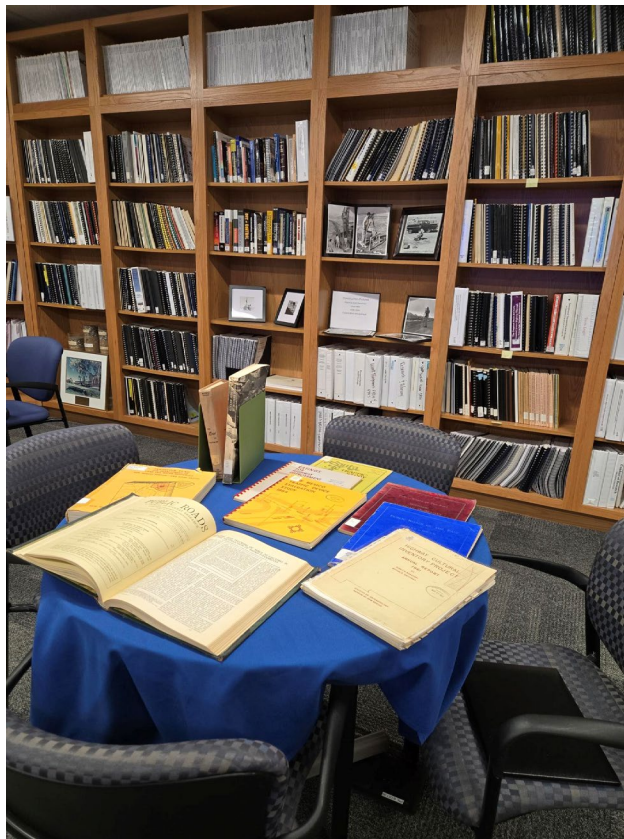
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National Library Week 2026



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Progress Over the Past Year



- Active members in NTKN
- Joined SALSA through the NM State Library for catalog development
- Collection Development Policy in place
- Members of the pooled fund, TPF-5(442)
- Institutional members with New Mexico Library Association
- Inventory of research reports and NM materials underway
- Subscriptions to ASCE Online Library and ASTM Compass
- Attended TRB conference in January 2026
- Brought NM up-to-date on RIP and TRID submissions
- Involved with ADA Title II / 508 training
- Updated Research Bureau procedures manual
- Presented at our quarterly PDE meeting
- Developed records management workflow



Lessons Learned



- Ask to see the storage shed during the interview
- Hold off on catalog development
- Embrace food in the library
- It's easy to over-extend yourself as a solo librarian

Goals for Upcoming Year



- Better define roles and responsibilities, as well as user base
- Finish inventory and work on catalog
- Advertise online subscriptions more
- Get Research reports into a digital repository hosted by NM State Library
- Update TRID links to reflect new location of reports in repository
- Start producing Libguides

“Can we have food in the library?”

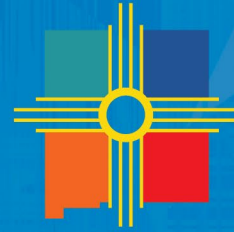


“We thought you were going to be gone all day.”



At least they left a cookie on my desk.





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The Opportunity of Shared Space

- Higher traffic means more people have a vested interest in the space.
- Harder to lose to private space interests, like offices or cubicles.
- More face time with department staff from other districts. High visibility
- The elevator speech and incidental exchanges
- Validates their choices and priorities for the space

Thank you!

Questions?

