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# ENTRE PALABRAS

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Inspiring Lives Through Reading

DEC-2020



**"Traveling Backpacks" by burro project**

Many libraries have found ways to get books into the hands of children

**Status of library operations**

**Financial challenges and goals**



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# Greetings from Executive Director José Luis Zárate



We hope you and your families are doing well. We have been busy these past months, and there are many exciting developments to share with you. The pandemic has affected not only the daily life of communities, but also of LPP associates and family members. This has posed additional challenges of communication and coordination between staff, Regional Coordinators, and library managers. However, we have remained highly motivated and active in finding creative ways to continue our work while being attentive to the needs and concerns of the communities, library managers, and staff.

## “Mochila Viajera” – the traveling library by burro!

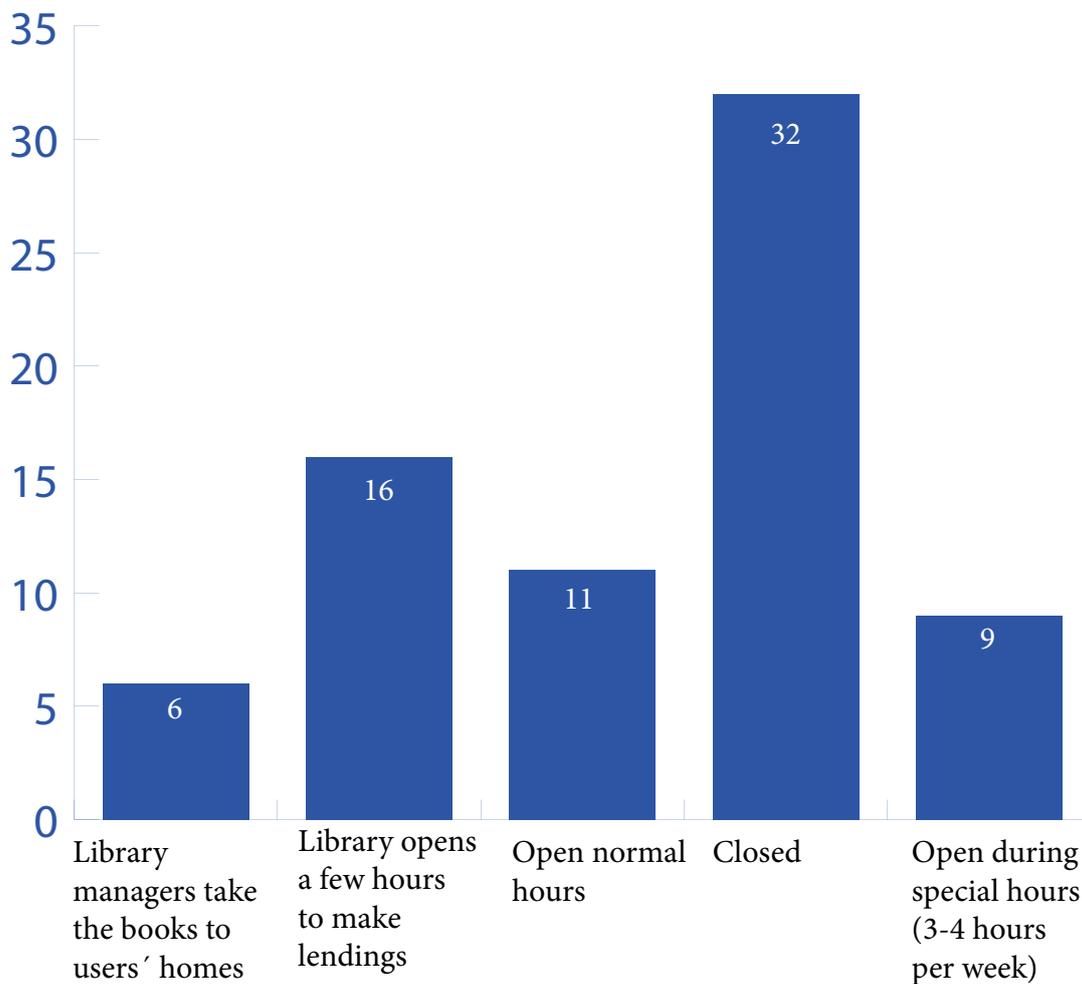
Many libraries have found ways to get books into the hands of children by allowing them to enter the library briefly to check out books. Others are delivering books to homes in neighborhoods. Of course, all this depends on the local circumstances of COVID infection.

One Regional Coordinator in the Mixteca region was inspired to initiate a project called “Mochila Viajera” (“Traveling Backpack”). Cristian and his team travel with a burro to take backpacks of ten books each to villages as much as 6 hours from their base. LPP has supported this project by donating 36 backpacks for a total of 100, and lending 212 books to their collection. The donation of backpacks was made possible by library sponsors who, while not coming to Oaxaca this year, wanted to support the ongoing work “at a distance.” This project is already inspiring the imagination of other Regional Coordinators and library managers elsewhere in Oaxaca state.





# Status of libraries



As of this writing, 57% of the 74 LPP-network libraries (42) are either open for selected hours for children to take out books or have arranged for home deliveries. This is a significant improvement from the situation months ago and reflects community efforts and dedication to make available as many reading resources as possible. Unfortunately, all 14 libraries located in schools are still closed due to government mandate. Library operations change in accordance with the local COVID situation and response from authorities. LPP Regional Coordinators regularly monitor these changes. We plan to send a detailed, current status report on each library to its sponsors in January, 2021.

# Financial challenges and goals

The pandemic has prompted a major shift to technology-based solutions for communication, training, and virtually every aspect of LPP work. Videos, podcasts, zoom calls, photography, and social media have taken the place of in-person training workshops, discussions, monitoring, and soon, the Annual Conference.

Regional Coordinators are the link between LPP staff and Executive Committee and the 74 library managers, and the necessity of better computers, cameras, and skill training poses additional financial needs. The itemized list below also includes the need for sponsors for two libraries and funds for the delivery of books to the 74 LPP-network libraries in early 2021.

## Goals

### Two longstanding libraries are in need of new sponsors

Municipal Library “Amado Nervo” Puerto Escondido. This Municipal Public Library receives 140 users and makes an average of 150 external loans, serving preschool and elementary schools offering the following services:

Offers the following services (pre-COVID)

- In-library reading, homework and reading programs
- Orientation to users of library resources
- Lending of books
- Reading circles
- Summer courses

The municipal library in the community of “San Mateo Tepantepec” serves 80 regular users and makes 140 external loans every month, offering the following services:

Offers the following services (pre-COVID)

- In-library reading, homework and reading programs
- Orientation to users of library resources
- Reading promotion activities including storytelling

Cost: A full sponsorship is \$800 US or \$1060 Canadian a year, or co-sponsorship is \$400 US or \$530 Canadian, for a five-year commitment.



## Upgrading of computer and camera equipment for nine Regional Coordinators

Description: Purchase and lending of 9 computers to Regional Coordinators to provide the necessary level of functionality. Regional Coordinators increasingly use zoom, social media, audio podcasts, photography and videos to document library operations and community activities which in turn are shared with other library managers and LPP donors. In addition to computers, we would like to purchase and loan 9 cyber-shot cameras.

Cost: \$11,000 US or \$14,600 Canadian



## Training on photography

Description: To maximize the use of the cyber-shot cameras, a professional studio in Oaxaca can provide an 8-hour class for 9 Regional Coordinators and 3 LPP staff members.

Cost: \$1,000 US or \$1,350 Canadian

## Annual Conference workshops in multimedia formats

Description: In place of representatives from 74 libraries coming to Oaxaca for Annual Conference workshops, we plan to produce 5 one-hour training videos, to be formatted and delivered on flashdrive, DVD, or other media, according to the library managers' needs. Costs includes use of the filming studio, camera technician, set, post-production, transportation of Regional Coordinators to the studio, production and distribution of videos and questionnaires.

Cost: \$1,200 US or \$1,600 Canadian



## Book delivery to 74 library locations

Description: This year, library managers will not be coming to the Annual Conference in Oaxaca to pick up their yearly supplement of 125 books. Instead, we will need to deliver the collections throughout the state. We are investigating a variety of logistical possibilities.

Cost: Estimated to be \$1,200 US or \$1,600 Canadian



To discuss donation options, please contact José Luis or Mike Bronn at [info@librosparapueblos.org](mailto:info@librosparapueblos.org)

# Virtual Library Visits

During the last week of October, LPP Executive Director José Luis Zárate and Executive Committee member Mike Bronn hosted three “Virtual Library Visit” zoom conversations with more than 35 sponsors. Having watched a 14-minute video that featured a recent visit to the LPP-supported library in San José del Pacífico, “tour participants” discussed current operations and challenges and offered suggestions for alternatives for book sorting and distribution of books to the libraries. The conversations were lively and productive and gave sponsors a chance to see friends they would otherwise be seeing in person in Oaxaca.



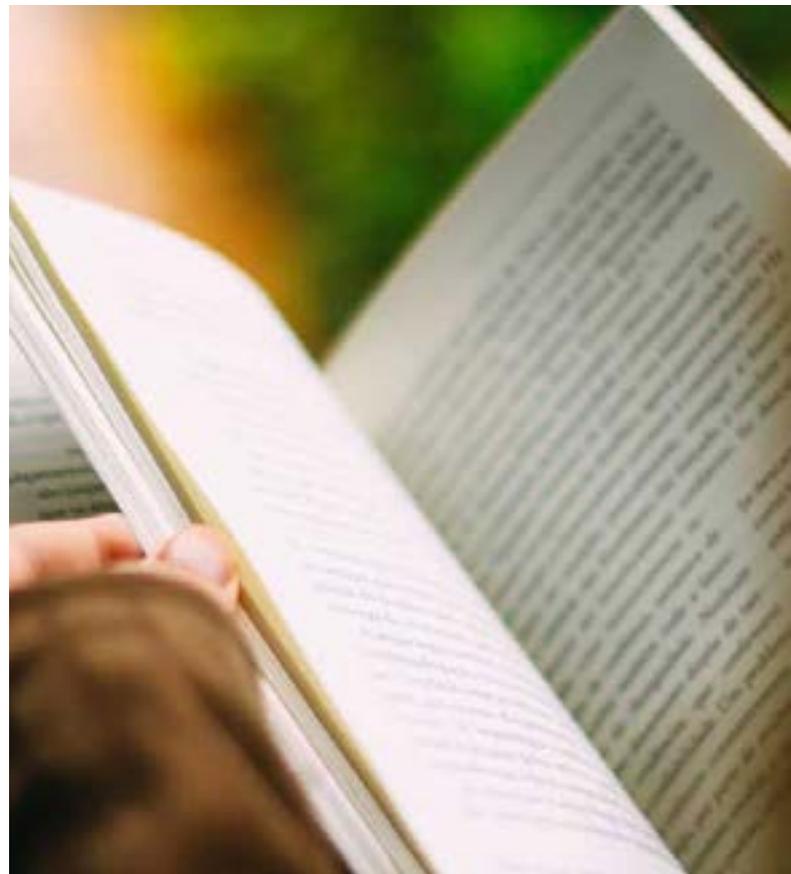
We hope you enjoy the video and will share it with your friends. It's a great way to introduce them to LPP work, and we are happy to join a zoom or SKYPE conversation with any possible new donors. Please contact us at [info@librospapueblos.org](mailto:info@librospapueblos.org)



## Alternate plans for book-sorting in December

Due to COVID restrictions, we sadly have to modify one of our supporters' favorite activities –sorting the 9,000 books we purchase for distribution to our network of 74-supported libraries.

This December, the project will be handled inhouse by staff members. We are developing alternate “backup” plans for an online annual conference and plan for book distribution to the libraries.



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