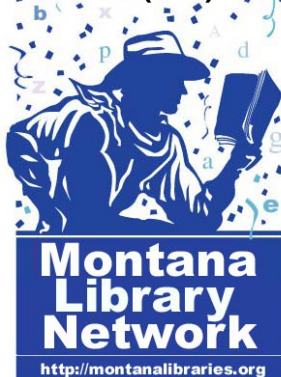


# Reading Cowboy News

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Montana Library Network

May—June 2002 Bruce Newell (406) 444-9816 [bnewell@state.mt.us](mailto:bnewell@state.mt.us)



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## Search MSL, NRIS, Heritage, and Montana State Government Using Google©

Jon Nehring, from the State Library, has figured out an extremely clever way to use Google to search MLN, MSL, NRIS, Heritage, and some or all of Montana State Government's web sites. It only searches web pages; it does not search web-based library catalogs or the web-based Gale/InfoTrac databases Mike mounted this new search window in the lower left-hand corner of the Montana Library Network homepage: <http://montanalibraries.org/>

Select the part of the hierarchy you want to search, type in your search terms, and click on “Google Search”. It works amazingly well. You can read more about this feature of Google on Google: <http://www.google.com/help/refinerearch.html#domain>, and apply this tactic to other web-spaces besides MSL's or the State's.

## Montana Library Association Annual Meeting Report

The MLA Annual Meeting was a busy and successful one for MLN staff. Working with John Finn and Kathy Mora, Mike Price and I set up the portable laptop lab. The Have-Laptop-Will-Travel lab worked flawlessly for the entire time, and was used by workshops as well as Montana librarians eager to keep current with their e-mail. Other MLN related MLA presentations included:

- Mike, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Rick Branham (from Sirsi), and Bruce presented the same workshop twice to over a hundred librarians: “Technology "Gadgets" That Will Send Your Library Sky High!” (We demonstrated an Internet-based white board, Ariel (an Internet fax equivalent for libraries), video conferencing over NetMeeting, iBistro, and wireless tools for inventory);
- Bruce played a minor role in Lisa's “Learning Ready Reference Skills With Elvis”;
- Bruce also presented a workshop overview of “MLN Gateway”; and spoke at the

- Interlibrary Loan Interest Group meeting.

## OCLC WorldCat Usage

Montana's use of OCLC's giant WorldCat reference database is about it was the previous two months. We haven't had to turn any searchers away, and Montana libraries conducted a near record 5,167 searches.

Reporting Period: April 2002

Overview--Inst Lvl--Sub/Hyb Indv Acct

Institution : MONTANA STATE LIBR  
Symbol : MZB

	Apr	Mar	Feb	History Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct
Authorizations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sessions	1525	1450	1466	1503	1009	1471	1370
Session Turnaways	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Session Turnaways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Searches	5167	4648	5180	4589	2977	4401	4292
Documents Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Avg Ports	2.99	3.05	3.17	3.05	3.05	3.50	3.09
Max Ports	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Port Capacity 0 - 25%	44.92	44.00	42.43	43.71	51.44	38.68	47.96
Port Capacity 26 - 50%	47.48	46.69	46.45	47.04	35.88	44.80	40.73
Port Capacity 51 - 75%	5.90	7.45	8.53	7.85	5.95	10.27	6.13
Port Capacity 76 - 99%	1.31	1.79	2.05	1.13	5.15	4.01	3.14
Port Capacity 100%	0.39	0.07	0.55	0.27	1.59	2.24	2.04

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## Future Plans—Montana Shared Catalog (MSC)

We're in the process of implementing the MSC for the first seventeen libraries; we're still on target to 'go live' the first of August. Training has begun (thank you Missoula Public Library; thank you also Mansfield Library and Clinton School) and more training is on the way. A MSC Member's Council meeting, scheduled for May 29 in Missoula, promises to include discussion of a variety of topics; not the least of which is future costs and cost-sharing formulas, cataloging practices, and training.

Start-up costs for the MSC come from federal Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, as well as from participating libraries. LSTA funds become available in the early part of each calendar year. Until LSTA funds are allocated to Montana, and until the State Library Commission sets budgets and apportions these moneys between a number of programs and projects, we don't know how much will be available for MLN and the MSC. However...

Just in case you were wondering: the State Library's Long Range Plan

<http://msl.state.mt.us/admin/lrplan/lrp.html> includes ongoing support of the MSC. So, although we don't know how much money we'll have for it next year (or the next, or the next...) rest assured that our plan (literally) is to keep on supporting the growth of the MSC

and shared catalogs until everyone who wants to be part of a shared catalog has had the opportunity.

Next year, that is, July 2002 through June 2003, we're hopeful that a number of southeastern Montana libraries will join the MSC. In May, Suzanne Reymer and Bruce Newell toured portions of Sagebrush and South Central library federations. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this project—we're all hoping for the financial wherewithal to transform this enthusiasm into better library tools for library staff and patrons.

More information about the MSC can be found at: <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNmsc-home.htm>.

**Please Complete the Online Information Source Survey** *(reprinted from previous issue)*

Should more funding become available, the Networking Task Force is considering which additional online information sources to add to the Montana State Library's (MSL's) statewide purchase agreement (such as the current subscription to InfoTrac).

MSL plans to continue to coordinate the purchase of a general-purpose magazine index, such as InfoTrac, UMI's Proquest product, or EbscoHost. The subscription for Gale's InfoTrac magazine database ends in August 2003, and MSL will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to seek proposals in the spring of 2003. Members of the Networking Task Force, and other interested individuals will evaluate the proposals.

If we do add an additional database or databases, the selection will have something for everyone. This survey is intended to seek your advice on these selections. We're asking for your suggestions by subject rather than for specific databases. Examples illustrate the subject area, and are not intended to express preference for a specific product. Academic, public, school, and special libraries should all find resources useful to them in the mix of online information resources selected.

Ballots and survey instructions are available online in your Montana Library Directory edit path: <http://montanalibraries.org/Directory/mldEUstart.asp>. In addition, the survey is linked from the MLN homepage. To vote, you'll need your library's MLD password. Instructions for logging into your library's password edit screens may be found at: <http://montanalibraries.org/help/#mldhelp>

**OCLC Enrollment—Update**

June 14 is the deadline for enrolling in the MLN/OCLC statewide contract for next year, July 2002 through June 2003. As of May 22, we're about \$150,000 short of our statewide contractual obligation to OCLC. If your library intends to enroll, but has not yet done so, please consider doing so today.

The Networking Task Force has devised a new shared-cost formula for copy-cataloging libraries, based on a size-indexed base-rate and CatExpress transactions. For more information about this, see: <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNoclcenroll2003.htm#2002>

Ours is a unique cooperative venture; no other group of libraries in the world works together in Montana's fashion to purchase OCLC services. By working together Montana libraries make it possible for most if not all Montana libraries to make use of OCLC's copy-cataloging and interlibrary loan tools. As a state our contract saves us over \$600,000 a year,

and we're building a solid foundation for the collaborative delivery of library services and materials. For more information contact:

- Bruce Newell, (800) 338-5087 e-mail [bnewell@state.mt.us](mailto:bnewell@state.mt.us)
- Diane Gunderson, (800) 338-5087 e-mail [dgunderson@state.mt.us](mailto:dgunderson@state.mt.us)

### **OCLC Training Plans Fall 2002—Update**

We have no news yet on training. See the previous *Reading Cowboy News* for more information. <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNcowboynews4&5%202002.htm>

### **MLN Planning—Update**

We are in the process of turning our responsibilities in the MSL Long Range Plan into a work plan for the coming year. In early May we met with the other Library Development staff and started putting names and timelines to the Plan's goals and objectives. We're working to finalize our work plans and mount them on the MLN web site, we'll let you know when we've completed this task.