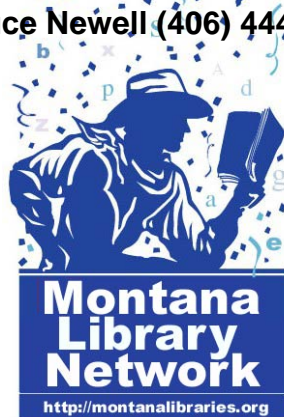


Reading Cowboy News

The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Montana Library Network
July—August 2002 Bruce Newell (406) 444-9816 bnewell@state.mt.us



Contents—

- New Montanaiana—*Montana Authors: A Bio-bibliography*
- 2003 OCLC Contract
- Free Gale Databases
- Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) Comes Online August 12
- Eastern Montana Libraries Intending to Join MSC
- Networking Task Force Meeting September 6
- MLN Planning Documents Online
- PNC/MLA Medical Conference October 19—22 in Vancouver, BC
- MLN Gateway WorldCat Statistics

New Montanaiana—*Montana Authors: A Bio-bibliography*. Karen A Hatcher and Katherine Schaefer, 1985

A screenshot of a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads 'Montana Authors A--C - Microsoft Internet Explorer'. The address bar shows the URL 'http://montanalibraries.org/MLNMTAuthors/MLNAuthDataA-C.html'. The page content features a red header with the text 'Montana Library Network' in blue. Below the header, the text reads 'Montana Library Network' and 'Montana Authors A--C'. A link 'Return to Montana Authors: A bio-bibliography' is provided. The main content is a list of author entries for Anthony Joseph Acerrano and Arthur Ainsley Ageton, including their birth and death dates, work titles, and subjects. The browser interface includes standard menu items (File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, Help) and search tools.

As of July 2002 this online resource is made temporarily available in a non-MARC text format. Sometime during the fall of 2002, richer records on the MLN Gateway (<http://http://161.7.8.17:8000/>) will replace this temporary file and enable it to be searched simultaneously with other Montanaiana online information resources. This present version is a considerably condensed version of Hatcher and Schaefer's work, originally published by the University of Montana in 1985. Many thanks to Karen Hatcher and the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana for their generosity and participation in this project. This is an important information resource for Montanans and those interested in Montana or literary-Montana.

These files contain 11,200 entries represents Montana approximately 400 authors and their work. Citations are drawn from the nineteenth and twentieth century, up to the mid-1980's. To be included Montana authors must have been born in Montana or lived here for at least five years. Editors, compilers, illustrators, etc. have not been included. The sources of data include about twenty-five standard sources, such as *Contemporary Authors*, *Who's Who in America*, or *Who's Who in Pacific Northwest Authors*.

2003 OCLC Contract

212 Montana libraries have enrolled in the statewide MLN/OCLC contract for fiscal year 2003 (July 2002—June 2003). We raised enough funds to meet our contractual obligation to OCLC.

Training is being scheduled for September and October; we'll post details as they are finalized. We're anticipating classes in western and eastern Montana, perhaps Missoula and Billings. Classes will include:

- Introduction to the MLN Gateway and WorldCat
- CatExpress copy-cataloging
- Web-based OCLC Interlibrary Loan
- Cataloging (including OCLC's new *Connexion* interface for libraries doing original cataloging on OCLC; for more information see <http://www.oclc.org/connexion/>)

Free Gale Databases

Gale has made a number of online information sources available at no charge to libraries participating in MLN's Gale/InfoTrac subscription. These databases will be available through the InfoTrac interface until September 2003 to any library (or at home to library patrons) currently subscribing to Gale/InfoTrac databases through our statewide agreement with Gale.

New databases include:

- InfoTrac OneFile 1980 - Jun 2002
- Business and Company Resource Center
- Health and Wellness Resource Center and Alternative Health Module 1980 - July 2002
- What Do I Read Next?

For more information, see <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNGale0702Announcement.html> or contact Bruce or other MSL Library Development staff: <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNcontacts.htm>

Montana Shared Catalog Comes Online August 12

The 'go-live' date for the Montana Shared Catalog is the week of August 12. Our original target was the week of July 28; this date proved to be overly ambitious. Training will be completed July 26 and the patron and gap-bibliographic files will be in place by August 12. The MSC will be available for searching over the Web with Sirsi's iBistro (or iLink) interface. This 'Amazon-like' graphical catalog interface will allow patrons to view book covers, tables of contents, reviews, and best-seller lists. You can see Wyoming's implementation of Sirsi's iBistro interface called 'WYLDcat', serving over 70 libraries at: <http://wyld.state.wy.us/>.

The MSC catalog will contain the holdings of seventeen libraries. It will contain approximately 400,000 unique bibliographic records and over 600,000 items. For more information about the Montana Shared Catalog, see: <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNmsc-home.htm>

Eastern Montana Libraries Intending to Join MSC

The following eastern Montana libraries have indicated their intent to join the Montana Shared in 2003:

- Big Horn County Public Library, Hardin
- Carnegie Library, Big Timber
- Glendive Public Library (tentative)
- Lewistown Public Library
- Miles City Public Library
- Sidney Public Library
- Sweet Grass County High School, Big Timber

Subject to the availability of federal Library Service and Technology Act funds, preliminary plans call for beginning to add these libraries to the MSC during January 2003, and bringing these SE Montana libraries online in June 2003. I anticipate that several other non-SE Montana libraries may join the MSC, using exclusively local funds, at the same time.

Networking Task Force Meeting September 6

The next Networking Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 6, at 9:00, in the State Library's Conference Room. Included on the agenda is:

- Welcoming new members Colette Bartow, Lynn McKinney, and Mary Ann Hansen
- OCLC contract for 2003 and 2004
- LSTA forecast; LSTA Advisory Committee
- ILL Task Force Recommendations
- Online Reference Sources procurement process
- Shared Catalog Project; Higher Ed Library System Task Force
- MLN Long Range Plan

For more information, contact Bruce Newell.

MLN Planning Documents Online

An overview of MLN's long range plans may be found at <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNoverview.htm>. Detailed plans, part of the State Library's long-range plan for its entire Library Development Department, may be found at <http://msl.state.mt.us/admin/lrplan/ldd.htm>.

PNC/MLA Medical Conference October 19—22 in Vancouver, BC

The 2002 Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association's (PNC/MLA) conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, October 19—22. A variety of medical and library automation-related topics will be presented. The conference web site is: <http://www.chspr.ubc.ca/pncmla/>.

MLN Gateway WorldCat Statistics

Many of Montana's libraries search WorldCat through the MLN Gateway. This service is available to librarians and library users alike. OCLC WorldCat statistics through June 2002 show a small (expected) seasonal decline. See the table below.

Reporting Period: June 2002

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

Institution : MONTANA STATE LIBR
Symbol : M2B

	Jun	May	Apr	History Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
. Authorizations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
. Sessions	1172	1341	1525	1450	1466	1503	1009
. 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	3696	3994	5167	4648	5180	4589	2977
. Documents Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. Port Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
. Avg Ports	2.75	2.87	2.99	3.05	3.17	3.05	3.05
. Max Ports	9	8	10	10	10	10	10
. Port Capacity 0 - 25%	50.77	46.53	44.92	44.00	42.43	43.71	51.44
. Port Capacity 26 - 50%	43.43	47.35	47.48	46.69	46.45	47.04	35.88
. Port Capacity 51 - 75%	5.12	5.74	5.90	7.45	8.53	7.85	5.95
. Port Capacity 76 - 99%	0.68	0.37	1.31	1.79	2.05	1.13	5.15
. Port Capacity 100%	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.07	0.55	0.27	1.59

FirstSearch ©1997 - 2002 OCLC as to electronic presentation and platform. All rights reserved.