

To: State Library Commission
From: Karen Strege
Re: Commission Mission/Goals
Date: June 10, 2003

The following is what I believe to be the latest version of the Commission's mission statement and goals. To create this document, I extracted information from notes from the fall 1999 Commission retreat and a follow up memo from me that summarized retreat information.

Background statement:

The Montana State Library Commission was created by the Montana Legislature in 1929. The membership includes five members appointed by the Governor and one member each appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee. Each term of appointment is for three years. The Montana State Library Commission is responsible for all the programs and services offered by the Montana State Library, library development in all Montana public libraries and the distribution and administration of all federal and state aid to libraries.

Values

The Commission believes that open access to information is the key to the development of an educated citizenry that is required for a strong democratic society. The Commission values human development, intellectual freedom, public service and network development for continuous learning.

Mission Statement

The Commission is a catalyst for active, positive, and progressive development and support of all libraries in Montana. The Commission advocates for strong libraries in Montana and encourages multi-type library cooperation throughout the state.

Outcomes & Activities:

1. To promote the status of libraries in Montana, the Commission will increase its advocacy activities.

Activities will include:

Attendance at local events, such as legislative debates or receptions, to promote libraries in counties, cities or in the state through the legislative process.

Attendance at appropriate events during legislative sessions to promote libraries through the legislative process.

Attendance at appropriate events to promote libraries in the federal government.

Commission representatives will meet with the Governor annually to report on the status of Montana libraries.

Commission representatives will meet with the Superintendent of Public Instruction annually to report on the status of Montana Libraries.

Evaluation will include:

Commission reports and evaluations of all activities at each meeting.

An assessment of activity impact.

2. The Commission will increase the quality of public library service in Montana.

Activities will include:

Decide adoption of the proposed standards.

Advocate and network with appropriate others to advocate for proposed legislation.

Evaluation will include:

An assessment of the legislative endeavors.

A review of the impact of proposed standards.

3. The Commission will increase its attention to administrative duties.

Activities will include:

Reviewing and updating, as needed, all Commission policies and bylaws.

Evaluating the State Librarian.

Reviewing the need for a program evaluation of the State Library.

From the Commission retreat in fall, 1999

Action Items to Improve Communication:

1. Establish a commissioners list serve. ACCOMPLISHED
2. Update e-mail addresses. ACCOMPLISHED
3. Wired Montana (presence)
4. Include a "Commissioner's Corner" in Big Sky Libraries. ACCOMPLISHED
5. Reaffirm the goal regarding communication with OPI, Commissioner of Higher Education, and the Governor, including an evaluation of what has been done. Add structure to implementing this goal.
6. Improve communication between school and public libraries. Influence the scheduling of meetings of MEA, MLA, and the Federations.
7. Work as a task group to better define the issue of communication and unity. ONGOING
8. More communication with libraries regarding library standards.
9. Maintain communication between the commission and legislators.

Action Items to Improve Unity in the Library Community:

1. Increase the availability and viability of commissioners.
2. Communicate the commission's interest and availability to receive invitations to attend relevant meetings.
3. One commissioner should attend each federation meeting.
4. Explore ways to become more involved with the divisions of MLA.
5. Build bridges between the commission and key people in the library community, universities, etc.
6. Encourage more cooperative projects among all libraries, e.g. magazine database, MLA, and continuing education.