

Montana Talking Books Library

TBL Goal 1: To ensure that all eligible clients know about the availability of services from MTBL and to make enrollment and use of the service easy for users.

Multiple tours were conducted September 2 and October 1.

Outreach presentations on MTBL services, equipment and materials were given September (26th, 27th and 29th) in Billings and Baker to two private schools (Billings), a nursing home, hospital and retirement facility (Baker). Presentations were made to two third grade public school classes in Great Falls on October 31st.

"Storytime" with twin vision Braille books was given by a patron/volunteer (as well as a staff tour of MTBL services) to twelve students from a private academy in MTBL on October 23rd.

TBL Goal 2: MTBL will plan and implement a smooth transition to a digital format to ensure that the potential for expanded services are available to MTBL patrons.

Continued LCM Training for TBL staff and Recording Program Volunteer Teams.

Trainings conducted by NLS Recording Program representatives, Margie Goergon-Rood and Robin Beatty for the volunteers of the MTBL Recording Studio in Helena.

In September and October, six titles were completed at both MTBL recording studios:

"Dancing to War" by Elfi Hornby; "The Six-Gun Syndicate" by Norman A Fox; "A Cup of Tears" by Florence Smith and Bonnie Worley; "This is a Recording" by Barbara Corcoran; "The Girls from the Five Great Valleys" by Elizabeth Savage; "The Legends of Hoskins Basin Gold" by Mabel Badgett.

MTBL was accepted into a one year Lobe Library study project. Several patrons will test four Otis digital playback machines with abridged and unabridged books downloaded from Audible.com. Initial investment in this project is \$1,500.00. Staff time on this project will focus on developing and recording the bibliography and Otis operating instructions, downloading books to the Otis players, distributing to patrons, as well as obtaining feedback from patron surveys with results to be shared with NLS in 2004. The Otis players were \$100.00 each and the \$1,000.00 goes towards e-books from Audible.com. The study ends in June, 2004.

Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of National Library Service (NLS), accompanied by Jean Moss, Digital Program Planning Coordinator, visited the Montana Talking Book Library on October 28th for the first time in MTBL and NLS history. Mr. Cylke and Ms. Moss met with Recording Studio volunteers and staff to learn about their experiences with the LCM Digital recording equipment. In addition, Mr. Cylke met with Karen Strege, Bruce Morton, Darlene Staffeldt and Christie Briggs to discuss future digital plans by NLS.

TBL Goal 3: Allow service to the patrons to be provided more efficiently and effectively by providing enough space for the collection.

Weeding up to RC45000 is continuing as planned, freeing up space for new books.

TBL Goal 4: Increase productivity and satisfaction of staff members and volunteers.

A new Experience Works Volunteer, Iva Todd, joined MTBL.

Volunteer Appreciation Event held in September at the Fort Harrison Officers Club. Fifty eight volunteers attended, with many receiving awards for excellence in service to the library. Ellen Baumler, author of "Spirit Tailings- Ghost Tales" was keynote speaker.