Commission Report
Mid-September through November 2005
Montana Library Network
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LDD Goal 2: To ensure that all Montana citizens have access to quality library services.

1. Networking Task Force (NTF) meetings have been scheduled for Friday, January 27 and Monday, March 20. The October 17 NTF meeting was canceled for lack of a quorum. Tentative agenda items for the January 27 meeting include:

   - Montana Shared Catalog new library procedure
   - New item(s) for statewide subscription
   - Resource sharing (get-it) generally, ILL Protocols specifically
   - Thin computing recommendations
   - Montana Library Network and Montana State Library planning
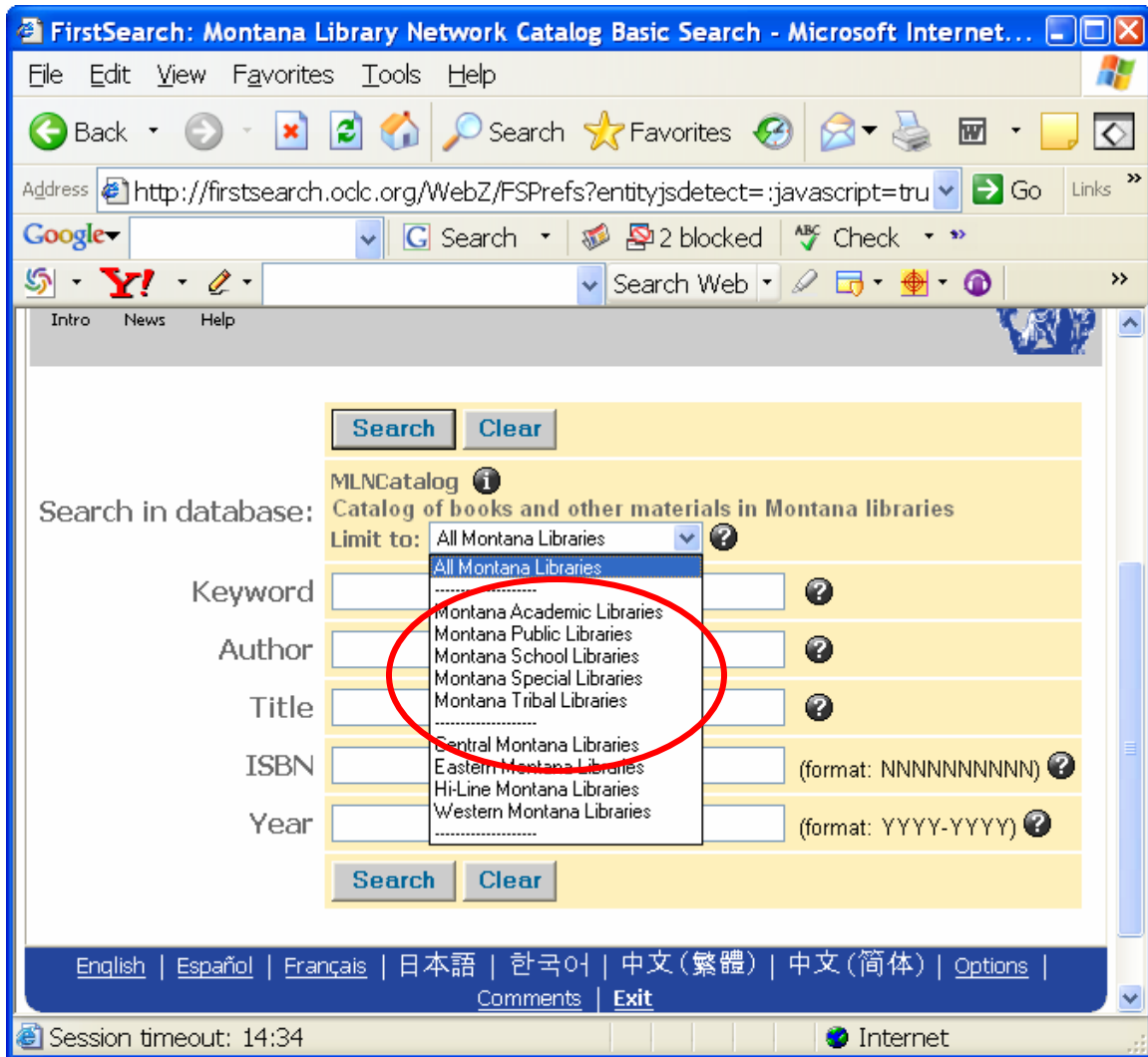
2. Montana Shared Catalog news.
   - Sarah and Mike have been hard at work, ensuring the Montana Shared Catalog continues to run smoothly and that member libraries are getting what they need from MSL.

   - Work on adding the new Montana Shared Catalog libraries is going smoothly. Our new employee, Jennie Stapp, who comes to us from the Historical Society, is doing brilliantly and is the point person for these new libraries.

   - The deadline for the second 2005-2006 round of new-MSC library applications is December 30. We have been assisting libraries with applications.

     Shared Catalog activities have included:

   - The Shared Catalog is investigating ways to make it easier for users to find a title in OCLC's WorldCat (MLNCAT), and see whether the library is on the shelf in the Montana Shared Catalog. This transition is smooth for about half (maybe more) of the items in the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC), but state and federal documents, in particular, lack common control numbers allowing a convenient 'hand-off' between WorldCat and the MSC.

   - We are working with OCLC and Sirsi, exploring possible future ways of making searching for libraries' 'stuff' more convenient. We are investigating two strategies:
     i. Exploring means of allowing a single search to retrieve relevant books, maps, magazine articles, et cetera, and by
     ii. Providing easier access to online copyrighted indexes and other resources.

- We are mid-process in purchasing Director's Station from Sirsi. Director's Station is an application providing library managers with significantly enhanced management information. For instance, letting them ask questions such as "How has adding evening hours effected circulation by card holders in the north valley?" Director's Station produces charts and graphs, as well as MS/Excel- or MS/Access-friendly tables. This $60,000 purchase is funded by non-MSL Montana Shared Catalog funds.

- The Montana Shared Catalog held its annual meeting in Lewistown.

- The Montana Shared Catalog Partner group, those six libraries encouraging unmediated peer-to-peer borrowing and lending, are continuing to work towards including a greater number of Montana libraries.

- Finally, Montana Shared Catalog libraries are beginning to use a new staff client. This is occasioning no little planning and some extra training.

3. The cooperative reference consortium continues to grow stronger administratively and as pertains to governance. They have been pondering a significant software upgrade, and a significant service enhancement. I wish we could have done more to assist this group, but feel confident that they are moving in the right direction and becoming a stronger consortium.

4. We are engaged in a streamlined strategic planning process. For the Montana Library Network, this builds directly on the work we did last January with the Networking Task Force and with Alane Wilson's (from OCLC) more than able assistance. We are working with other MSL staff to draft agency-wide goals, and drafting sphere-of-influence objectives where appropriate. Our users will have an opportunity to contribute to this planning process, and the Commission will see the fruits of our labors (Darlene reminds us) at its next meeting.

5. We are moved by the whole moving experience. Mike has windows, as does Sarah. Jennie can see the light. There is desk-space for Jennie. We miss rubbing elbows with our buddies downstairs, but are beginning to know a whole new crew of MSL and FW&P staff.

6. The Montana Memory Project, what was once loosely known as 'Montaniana', is coming along. You can see a few trial databases using OCLC's Contentdm product at: http://digcoll.mt.gov/

7. I have been traveling some.

- I consulted with Gallatin County librarians regarding the MSC Partner library program at their fall meeting in Big Sky (Gallatin Gateway)

- Bob Cooper, Sibyl Govan, and I staffed the MSL booth at the MEA/MFT convention in Missoula. This was a terrific way to talk with school librarians about MSL projects and services.

- I attended the OCLC Member's Council meeting in Dublin, Ohio, and presented our paper: Montana's Libraries: Good Neighbors. http://montanalibraries.org/MLNNews/RuralLibrariesWhitePaper.doc

- Brad Baker, Dean of Libraries and Learning Resources at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, and I presented papers at the Wisconsin Library Association annual meeting in La Crosse, discussing Illinois and Montana statewide union catalogs. I wouldn't be surprised to see Wisconsin develop a similar service to Montana's MLNCAT.

- I spent a couple of days with the Alaska State Library, working with a statewide task force toward the goal of realizing an Alaska version of the Montana Library Network. I am pleased to report that they are off and running; I think we have some splendid partners, potentially, in the land of the midnight sun.

- With Bob Cooper, I visited the Broadwater County Library in Townsend, consulting about backup strategies and encouraging them to consider joining the Montana Shared Catalog.

- On a very sad note, Bob Cooper and I attended Mary Ann Erickson's funeral in St. Ignatius. Mary Ann was the librarian at the school/community library in St. Ignatius. She was a terrific gal, taken way too soon. She will be missed by the entire town of St. Ignatius, and by the Montana's library community. During the elegy the Mission library, Mission's participation in the Montana Shared Catalog and in MLNCAT (with its worldwide reach) were mentioned; Bob and I both were very moved.

- Finally, Jennie Stapp and I went to Anaconda to wish Honore bon voyage in her new position at Missoula Public Library, and to wish John Finn a big MSL "howdy" in his new position of Director at the Hearst Free Library.

8. I have been appointed to the Northwest Digital Archive advisory council. My role, I believe, is to encourage interoperability between data management schemes, and partnerships between libraries, museums, and archives. http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/search/FilingTitle.asp

9. OCLC has added a "Tribal Library" view to MLNCAT (http://mlncat.org). This process went smoothly.

LDD Goal 3: Montana citizens will understand, value, and use the services of Montana's libraries.

1. OCLC Membership drive: 267 libraries have joined, as of December 1, 2005. This is up about 30 from last year.

2. We have a signed contract with EBSCO, for their Auto Repair Resource Center.

3. Gale/InfoTrac enrollment is at 296 libraries. This is down about a 100 from last year; we are still signing up school libraries. I expect this number (which is growing about 100/month) will continue to grow, albeit at a slower rate, and that we will once again have about 400 libraries signed up a year from now. This process could be streamlined for all concerned, and consideration of the need to simplify this process has been included in our early planning discussions.

I have attached the list of libraries that subscribed to Gale in 2003, but have yet to get signed up this year. We will be contacting them again to see if they wish us to

assist them with their subscription process. According to our records, the following libraries have yet to subscribe to the statewide periodical full-text databases:

Alberton Public Schools, School Library, Alberton
Ashland Elementary, School Library, Ashland
Barrett Hospital and Healthcare Library, Special Library, Dillon
Belt Public Schools, School Library, Belt
Bigfork K-8 Library, School Library, Bigfork
Box Elder Public Schools, School Library, Box Elder
Brady Public Schools, School Library, Brady
Browning Branch Library, Branch Library, Browning
Browning Middle School, School Library, Browning
Butte High School, School Library, Butte
Census and Economic Information Center, Special Library, Helena
Center for Health Information, Special Library, Missoula
Charlo Public Schools, School Library, Charlo
Circle Public Schools, School Library, Circle
Clinton Elementary School, School Library, Clinton
Conrad High School Library, School Library, Conrad
Conrad Public Schools, School Library, Conrad
Corvallis Primary Library, School Library, Corvallis
Cut Bank Middle School, School Library, Cut Bank
Deer Park Schools, School Library, Columbia Falls
Denton Public Schools, School Library, Denton
Dutton Public Library, Public Library, Dutton
East Glacier Park Branch Library, Branch Library, East Glacier
East Middle School, School Library, Butte
Ekalaka Public Library, Public Library, Ekalaka
Emerson Elementary School, School Library, Butte
Fairview Public Schools, School Library, Fairview
Fortine Elementary School, School Library, Fortine
Fromberg Public Schools, School Library, Fromberg
Geraldine Branch Library, Branch Library, Geraldine
Glasgow East Side Library, School Library, Glasgow
Grantsdale Elementary School Library, School Library, Hamilton
Harlem Public Library, Public Library, Harlem
Hays-Lodge Pole School Library, School Library, Hays
Heart Butte Schools, School Library, Heart Butte
Hellgate Elementary School K-2, School Library, Missoula
Hellgate Intermediate School 3-5, School Library, Missoula
Heritage Christian School Library, School Library, Bozeman
Hillcrest Elementary School, School Library, Butte
J-I Public Schools, School Library, Chester
Kay McKenna Memorial Library, Special Library, Helena
Kennedy Elementary School, School Library, Butte
Lame Deer Middle School Library, School Library, Lame Deer
Liberty Elementary School, School Library, Chester
Lincoln School, School Library, Baker
Longfellow School, School Library, Baker

Loring Colony School, School Library, Loring
Malta Elementary School, School Library, Malta
Malta Jr./Sr. High School, School Library, Malta
Mansfield Library at the College of Technology, Academic Library, Missoula
Margaret Leary Elementary School, School Library, Butte
Media Center Webster Complex, School Library, Butte
Melstone School Library, School Library, Melstone
Melville School, School Library, Melville
Monforton School, School Library, Bozeman
Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, School Library, Great Falls
Moore Public Library, Public Library, Moore
Mount Ellis Academy, School Library, Bozeman
Mount Jumbo Elementary School, School Library, Missoula
Muldown Elementary School, School Library, Whitefish
Opheim Community Library, Branch Library, Opheim
Paris Gibson Middle School, School Library, Great Falls
Philipsburg Public Schools, School Library, Philipsburg
Pine Creek Elementary School, School Library, Livingston
Poplar High School Library, School Library, Poplar
Potomac Elementary School, School Library, Bonner
Pryor Public Schools, School Library, Pryor
Red Lodge High School, School Library, Red Lodge
Reed Point Public Schools, School Library, Reed Point
Roberts Public Schools, School Library, Roberts
Rosebud Public Schools, School Library, Rosebud
Sheridan Public Library, Public Library, Sheridan
Shields Valley Public Schools Library, School Library, Wilsall
Somers Public Schools Library, School Library, Somers
St Labre Indian Catholic School Library, School Library, Ashland
Stevensville K-6 Elementary Library, School Library, Stevensville
Stevensville Middle School Library, School Library, Stevensville
Swan River School Library, School Library, Bigfork
Tallow Creek School Library, School Library, Malta
Target Range Public Schools Library, School Library, Missoula
Turner School Library, School Library, Turner
Two Eagle River School Library, School Library, Pablo
Valier Public Library, Public Library, Valier
Washington Elementary School Library, School Library, Hamilton
West Elementary School Library, School Library, Butte
West Valley Public Schools Library, School Library, Kalispell
Westby Public School Library, School Library, Westby
Whitefish Central School Library, School Library, Whitefish
Whittier Elementary School Library, School Library, Butte
William P. Sherman Library and Archives, Special Library, Great Falls
Wolf Creek Elementary Library, School Library, Wolf Creek
Wolf Point Jr/Sr High Library, School Library, Wolf Point
Zortman Grade School Library, School Library, Zortman