

Montana State Digital Library

July 15, 2005 – September 15, 2005

Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)

Goal 1: To fulfill its mandate to be the source for natural resource information in Montana, NRIS acquires, integrates, maintains, and documents natural resource data and information needed for understanding, managing and utilizing Montana's natural resources, and environment.

- NRIS spends a significant amount of time on data maintenance. Not only do we process regular updates to many of the datasets, but we make changes to databases and update routines to keep up with changes at other agencies. At this time, most of the data update routines require some level of staff intervention. In the last few months we modified the databases and update routines for the Water Quality Tracker, DEQ Remediation and DNRC Water Rights.
- We anxiously await the arrival of the 2005 NAIP Color Ortho-photography for the entire state. This data has countless applications including wetlands delineation, agriculture, natural resource management, economic development and homeland security. NRIS staff will spend several weeks processing the data into manageable files to post on the website. In addition, these photos will be used for an up-to-date base layer for our online mapping applications. Most of this work is being funded by a DEQ wetlands grant. A small portion will be funded with NRIS core funds.
- NRIS submitted design specifications to the MontanaView Consortium, who are planning to establish an archive for remotely sensed (satellite) imagery at MSL. The designs for a website, storage capacity and an online viewing application were approved and the project will be undertaken in the March – June timeframe. This project is funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior via the AmericaView program.
- Added Air Quality information to the Digital Atlas.
- Worked with the Montana Historical Society on their Historical Place Names project which will result in a book and a layer for the Digital Atlas.
- Worked with DEQ on the statement of work for a new project to bring Hazardous Waste Site information to the clearinghouse.

Goal 2: A broad range of user groups can easily locate data in effective formats. Users find this information augmented with related datasets to increase its value. Potential NRIS users are well informed of information available through the clearinghouse and trained in the use of NRIS tools. Staff assistance is available when needed to assist users in locating and utilizing data.

Services:

- The NRIS website averaged about 2900 visitor sessions per day during November and December. 13516 GIS files were downloaded in November and 10619 in December. Unfortunately we don't have statistics on our popular web feature and web raster services, to which many users connect directly using desktop GIS

software. We also can't be certain how much of our traffic comes from core contributing agencies.

- NRIS staff filled 118 online data requests this quarter in addition to the numerous questions and problems that came in via telephone and e-mail.

Outreach:

- NRIS participated in the following meetings: Montana Land Information Advisory Council, the EPHT Advisory Council, the Ground Water Assessment Steering Committee, the Governor's Drought Committee, the Homeland Security GIS Subcommittee, the Montana Wetlands Council and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council.
- Sibyl attended the American Water Resources Association, Montana Chapter conference held in Bozeman in October. MSL hosted a GIS Day event for fifth graders from Smith School in November. In December, Sibyl presented at the Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems conference in Helena. Both Sibyl Govan and Jim Hill attended the State Information Technology Conference held in Helena in December.

Library Information Services

LIS Goal 3: Montana citizens have easy access to a comprehensive collection of state publications.

Objects ingested into the State Publications Digital Repository have risen to 925 records taking up 6.85GB of disk space. This is not titles, but records, some titles are comprised of several records. In 2005 the number of print items from the 30 state agencies we receive publications from jumped to 4,814 of which we shipped back out 3,591 to 15 separate locations. Of all those publications only 33 were catalogued as strictly electronic resources with no paper equivalent.

The State Publications Coordinator has recently added two additional depository libraries to the list of libraries we support with this material. The newest depositories are D'Arcy McNickle Library (at Salish Kootenai College) and the Judson H. Flower, Jr. Library (at Miles Community College). As a result of increased communication with these depository libraries most have increased their selection rate for 2006 and this has resulted in a 70% increase in the amount of publications being processed by the state library and distributed state-wide.

The Outreach Librarian was invited to a meeting of Public Information Officers at the Governor's office to give a presentation on Montana State Library Resources. It is early to tell if there is a trend developing but Interlibrary Loan requests are up from 65 last October, to 103 in December.

Since last December's Commission meeting LIS staff collaborated on collection development and as a result our Acquisitions Technician has processed 36 new print titles: 18 covering Ecology, Restoration and Conservation, 14 covering management and government, 1 medical reference, 1 library development reference, 1 on grant foundations and a circulation reference text for newsletters in print. As these titles arrive we plan on placing them in a "new titles" bookshelf for increased visibility to our walk-in patrons. Work continues on developing an easier and more intuitive method of designing patron access to

online journals and Acquisitions and Outreach are working together on resolving this issue which includes linking and authentication problems that change depending on the publisher.

LIS Goal 2: The staff of Montana libraries know about and have access to the professional literature that they need. They obtain assistance from the MSL reference staff for patron questions.

All digital library staff participated in the first “Overview of Montana State digital Library (MSdL) Resources and Services for State Government Workers,” since the beginning of the remodel, organized by our Outreach Librarian. The event took place at the Library in the Grizzly room and included presentations on using the catalog, finding digital reference materials, accessing electronic journals, NRIS and Natural Heritage Program offerings. On January 10, there were 21 attendees from various state agencies. Twenty-five people have registered for the next February 14 two-hour event. Following the overview presentations, the attendees’ information (documented in their surveys) will be useful when developing specialized training workshops for the spring. The new online registration form can be found at http://msl.mt.gov/contact/overview_registration.html and more of these workshops and hands-on tutorials are currently in development.

Starting at the end of January our Cataloging Specialist will be chairing the MSC Cataloging Committee and working with committee members on a draft of the Montana Shared Cataloging Guidelines.

Several MSL staff are participating in panels being organized for the upcoming MLA Conference in Missoula: one on cataloging, one on distance education and one on the State Publications Digital Archive. Several staff also attended online distance training for a new module of the Digital Archive, the Web Archiving Workbench.

LIS Goal 4: Users have easy and comprehensive access to information through the library.

Collaboration with the Permanent Public Access Committee continues with consensus building meetings and subsequent refinements to the language and process of handling state publications, both digital and print for the upcoming legislative session. Efforts have been made to forecast trends in document flow through and required manpower were made to support our requests for a budget increase to fund our mandate.

Work on five year MSL vision plan gathering input and feedback has us imagining new ways of bringing easy and comprehensive information through the library no matter the division behind it.

Input into the new MSL web design implementation has been required by every staff member. To increase participation in group efforts we have been experimenting with online social networking tools, like PPAC at <https://statepublications.pbwiki.com/> and Library Resources for State Workers at <http://statedigitalresources.pbwiki.com> . Both which are under development and in continuous flux.

The State Agency Libraries brochure was first published in 2002. We revised and updated it for the new year by creating an online template which queried 13 agency libraries for their current circulation information and compiling and cross-checking that information for Sara Groves who is marketing and printing it for the public on behalf of all state agency libraries.