

MLN Commission Report
December 2005—January 2006
Bruce Newell, bnewell@mt.gov

LDD Goal 2: To ensure that all Montana citizens have access to quality library services.

1. The Montana Shared Catalog added five new libraries to the catalog in January, and four went live immediately. The fifth continues to retrospectively catalog (recon) their collection prior to beginning circulation. Those libraries are:
 - Sheridan Public (recon)
 - Rosebud County (live)
 - Bicentennial Library of Colstrip (live)
 - Plains K-12 School Library (live)
 - Pablo Elementary School Library (branch of the Ronan Schools) (live)
2. Four new MSC libraries were added in early March:
 - Darby Community Library
 - North Valley Public Library
 - Billings Medical Clinic Library
 - TRIC/PLUK Library (Billings), (Training Resource Information Center/Parents Let's Unite for Kids)
3. Six MSC members attended the Sirsi/Dynix Conference in Nashville, representing MSC system administration, small and large public, school and special libraries.
 - Nansu Roddy, Bitterroot Public, representing small public libraries
 - Kim Crowley, Flathead County, representing large public libraries
 - Ann Rutherford, Miles Community College, representing academic libraries
 - Lee Phillips, Highwood School, representing school libraries
 - Sarah McHugh and Mike Price, for training and conference
4. The MSC went live with Director's Station. Director's Station is an add-on application that allows member librarians to ask all sorts of routine and unimaginably complicated statistical questions of about their library's catalog holdings, patrons, and circulation. Questions ranging from: "How many books did we circulate last month?" to "Compared to other MSC libraries, how many health-related books did my library's more rural library users check-out in the last two months?"
5. Jennie spent a day in Stevensville doing copy cataloging training with the staff of North Valley Public Library and Darby Community Library. Marilyn Trospser and Paulette Parpart joined them for this.
6. Sarah and Jennie met with TRIC/PLUK in Billings in early February.

7. Sarah and Bruce met with the Canyon Creek (Trinity) School Board, accompanied by Lewis & Clark Library Director Judy Hart, to talk about Canyon Creek joining the MSC.
8. Sarah, Jennie, and Bruce attended the MSC Partners meeting in Missoula, February 10, 2006.
9. The pilot project, working with OCLC, MSC Partner libraries, and other Montana libraries, works toward a growing number of Montana libraries providing unmediated patron discovery, request, and courier delivery. This pilot presumes two or more different libraries participating, with separate integrated library systems.

This pilot project's goal is to see if we can extend the functionality enjoyed by patrons of MSC's Partner libraries (unmediated discovery and request, rapid materials delivery) to Montana library users being served by other integrated library systems.

We have named this pilot the "Montana Library Card" project. We've had several phone meetings and are getting set for a face-to-face meeting with the project's principles sometime in April or early May. The project is discussed in detail at: <http://montanalibrarycard.blogspot.com/>

10. MLN has been participating in the Information Technology planning process, and MSL's strategic long range plan. MSL's draft plan is online at: <http://montanalibraries.org/BusinessPlan/BPInvite.asp>. A short, high level PowerPoint version of MLN's portion of this plan can be viewed at: <http://montanalibraries.org/BusinessPlan/What%27sOurNextStory.pps>
11. Bruce participated in three non-agency meetings during this time:
 - Northwest Digital Archives Advisory Committee (phone)
 - OCLC Members Council (Dublin, Ohio)
 - Montana Library Association's OFFLINE retreat (Helena)

All meetings went well. The OCLC MC meeting was interesting in that we explored new client-centered ways of looking at libraries' roles in organizing and adding value to disparate knowledge resources, for subscription-like use by individual patrons.

http://www.oclc.org/memberscouncil/meetings/2006/february/lorcan_dempsey.ppt,

http://www.oclc.org/memberscouncil/meetings/2006/february/robin_murray.ppt

OFFLINE sold out with 80 attendees. The speakers did a terrific job of talking us toward a new way of looking at library services and libraries. Copies of the presenter's PowerPoint slides can be found, below their names, at: <http://montanalibraries.org/Offline/Offline2006.htm>.