

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) June 2006 Commission Report

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.

March Outreach Contacts totaled over 800. This included the Great Falls Health Fair, Montana Association for the Blind's Convention in Missoula and a presentation to the Heartstone Center in Anaconda. April Outreach Contacts totaled over 75. This included the Community Center in Lima and the Montana Association for the Blind's Beaverhead Chapter in Dillon.

Summer Reading Program introduction letters have been mailed out in preparation for the kickoff on June 5th. This year's theme is "Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales. Five patrons have signed up so far.

The "Bits of Gold" Newsletter was mailed to over 3,100 patrons and interested partners. We received an overwhelming patron response to our request for them to return their overdue books. We sent out over 21,000 books to patrons in March and April and received back over 30,000.

Staff visited the Prison Recording Program and gave an in service on April 11th.

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.

In March and April, four titles were completed at both MTBL recording studios: "Our Lady Builds A Statue" by Leroy Lee & Mary Fields; "The Story of Mary Black" by James A. Franks; "Reeder's Alley: History, Housewives, Art" by Pat Boedecker; and "Montana Disasters: Fires, Floods, and Other Catastrophes" by Molly Searl.

Special Projects: Author Loretta Lynde from Helena completed the recording of her book "The Magpie Odyssey, An Irish Journey".

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

The National Library Service has streamlined the weeding and excessing process for Regional Libraries. This will positively effect the space issue for our library.

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

In March, staff attended the Keystone Library Automated Service User Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah and learned many new features being developed in the next version of the KLAS database.

In April, staff attending the Biennial National Library Service Conference in Portland, Maine, making presentations on our local digital recording program as well as learning about the new digital book and machine formats being developed for our patrons.

The RSVP Luncheon was attended on April 8th to honor our Volunteers in Helena.