

**MLN Report**  
**August & September, 2006**  
**Prepared by Bruce Newell, MLN Director**  
**For October 11, 2006 Commission meeting**

**Goal One – Content** - *MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

- I have advised Bob and Darlene regarding renewing our full-text database subscriptions. Our current contract ends September 1, 2007, but between now and spring 2007, MSL will want to have selected a vendor (via an request for proposal) and begun the process of enrolling libraries. So the process, typically undertaken by MSL staff and the Networking Task Force, probably needs to begin sooner than later.
- MSL/OCLC Content Cooperative Pilot Project, coordinated by Jennie Stapp

"This pilot, sponsored by OCLC and promoted by MSL, is designed to test a new digital content management option that integrates their Digital Archives service with their cataloging service Connexion. Pilot participants are testing the ability to link digital content files to newly created or existing WorldCat catalog records. The digital content is then stored in the OCLC Digital Archives. This link creates a permanent point of access to the content through a persistent URL. Also, OCLC is providing 20 gigs of free storage for each participating institution. Digital content is then delivered do users via OCLC discovery tools such as FirstSearch, OpenWorldCat and WorldCat.org." [Jennie Stapp]

"The following Montana institutions are participating:

- Sidney Public Library
  - University of Montana-Western Library
  - Montana Historical Society Research Center
  - Miles Community College Library
  - St. Vincent Healthcare Health Sciences Library
  - Lewis and Clark Library
  - Montana State Library
  - MT Tech Library
  - Rocky Mountain College Library
  - MSU-Billings Library
  - State Law Library of Montana
  - Missoula Public Library
  - Lewistown Public Library"
- MSL purchased a one-year limited license for CONTENTdm, the application software used by the Montana Memories Project (including MSL) for managing metadata and digital items. <http://digcoll.mt.gov/> With OCLC's acquisition of DiMeMa (the writers of

CONTENTdm) it will be interesting to see how this project and the previously bulleted item merge over the next 12-18 months.

- I am speaking with Bob and Darlene about the need and possible strategies for reworking the means by which we distribute OCLC costs. This is an ongoing discussion.

**Goal Two—Access** – *MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

- The Ask-a-Montana-Librarian project continues to do well.
- Worldcat.org now makes many Montana libraries' materials discoverable over the open Web. This newly made public project provides another way, similar to but less featured than MLNCAT, of finding library materials. <http://www.worldcat.org/>
- The ILL study group has not met. It was my intention that it meet early this fall and review the ILL Protocols [<http://montanalibraries.org/MLNresources/MLNmilsp.htm>], and review and spruce-up a very draft version of a fulfillment parallel to the ILL protocols (Bob will have a copy). Events, however, conspired to make this review impossible given other constraints on my time.

**Goal Four—Collaboration** - *MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

- The deadline for turning in applications to join the Montana Shared Catalog during fiscal year 2007 is mid-October. We have received a number of inquiries and several applications (as of 9-26-06).
- The Montana Library Card pilot, ably coordinated by Sarah McHugh, has been working on many of the authentication and delivery problems identified in MSL's plan. This project is waiting on a 'certified' server (a software application) allowing Dynix Horizon systems to interact with OCLC and the Montana Shared Catalog using the NCIP protocols. We are hoping that this project can begin in November. We plan to have installed the NCIP software on the MSC server early in October. Overall, this complicated pilot project is moving ahead smoothly.
- Sarah spoke at the 'Moving Mountains' courier seminar in Denver this month. There is considerable nationwide interest in moving atoms, and a healthy variation in how it's currently being accomplished.

**Goal Five— Sustainable Success** - *MSL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.*

- There is plenty of material for the Networking Task Force to consider, but no meeting date has been set.

- I am retiring. As of Friday, October 27, 2006, I am resigning my position at the Montana State Library and retiring from State employment. It has been swell, and I thank you (the MSL Commission) for the opportunity to serve Montanans as MLN's Director.

I hope to stay closely involved with libraries, both here in Montana and while serving on OCLC's Board. Being the MLN Director has been the hands-down highlight of my career, my 'perfect job', and I am grateful to have had this chance to help the State Library and Montana's libraries move a little ways down the road. I count myself fortunate to have worked in Montana, a state overflowing with smart, passionate, hopeful, and gutsy colleagues.

I have very much enjoyed working closely (in particular) with Darlene, Mike, Sarah, Jennie, and Bob (as well as with others at MSL; but I owe these five a special "thanks".) I thank and send my sincere best wishes to all who work at MSL. The State Library is a fine and necessary institution, staffed with smart, big-hearted people doing superb work.

I have treasured this opportunity to help make Montana libraries work a little better for their users. Thanks again for this amazingly fun opportunity to serve Montanans.