Montana State Digital Library
June 2007-July 2007

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

- LIS launched Archive Montana, an archive of state agency websites including data extractions from 145 previously crawled hosts. Archive Montana is built through a subscription to Archive-It, the subscription service of the Internet Archive for use by libraries, archives, and other organizations interested in capturing, indexing, and providing access to web content.
- Through its recently acquired Archive-It subscription, LIS captured online Legislative Audit Reports from 1996 that will soon be removed from their website for preservation within the MSL digital archive.
- LIS reviewed and renewed contracts for Lexis-Nexis database licenses.
- LIS reviewed and renewed contracts for the OCLC Digital Archive, which supports our state publications repository, and CONTENTdm, which supports the Montana Memory Project.
- LIS staff participated in a Content Cooperative Pilot (CCP) project teleconference discussing the current and anticipated means for submitting digital materials through the Connexion Client and Browser. OCLC personnel shared their current knowledge of the new infrastructure and digital content services being developed based on the CONTENTdm software.
- NHP staff completed the creation of over 10,000 new animal Occurrence records during the recent major update of this core database that is relied upon by both public and private sectors.
- NHP staff is now processing several thousand new Observation records from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from wildlife surveys related to mine reclamation. DEQ is funding prioritization of this effort so that the data can be accessed via the Natural Heritage Tracker.
- NHP biologists are collecting new data on grassland birds, bats, mollusks, amphibians, stream invertebrates, mussels and various rare plant species, including water Howellia and Ute Ladies'-tresses (both federally Threatened). Ecologists are conducting mapping and assessment of sagebrush and wetlands, and are assisting the US Geological Survey with development of a new statewide vegetation map.

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.

- LIS created a concrete retention guide for serials to supplement the collection development policy. The retention guide makes it possible to decide what and when serials are to be removed from the shelves. The retention guide also helped free up valuable shelf space for newer incoming serials. The deselected federal document serials are being offered to the regional depository library.
- LIS conducted staff meetings dedicated to improving website usability, navigation, and information architecture of the LIS web pages. LIS worked with the MSL webmaster to improve navigation of the MSL web.

- LIS purchased Adobe Captivate 2.0 to create online learning experiences for MSL services and resources. LIS intends to create tutorials on interlibrary loan service, accessing eBooks, using licensed databases, etc.
- NHP released a major upgrade to the Natural Heritage Tracker website. It now provides access to over 500,000 observation records for all of Montana's vertebrate animal species. Distributions are represented at the scale of grid cells that cover ¼ the area of a 1:24,000 topographic map. Other enhancements include several new query options (by species' status and geographic area, as well as name), additional base map layers (such as new statewide color infra-red air-photos), graphical summaries of animal observations by year and month (dynamically generated for each area viewed), and the capability for users to save customized map views for future "visits" to the site. Another new function tracks detailed usage (for signed-in users, which includes agency users desiring access to locationally-precise data and anyone wishing to submit data). The Tracker is already prompting many users to contribute additional data!
- NHP and FWP staff is reviewing a new design for the incredibly popular Animal Field Guide that integrates the currently separate front-end web pages for NHP and FWP. The new design will eliminate confusion and redundancy while availing users of a much broader range of resources.
- NRIS continued the visioning process for a new, more comprehensive Montana Digital Atlas that will include the capabilities of the current Montana Digital Atlas, Topofinder I, Topofinder II and the Data Bundler.
- NRIS worked on development of the Montana GIS Data Portal, a community website where patrons can discuss GIS issues and publish metadata records for their GIS data holdings. The launch of the portal is scheduled for mid-Fall.
- NHP staff handled 154 mediated requests in June and the first half of August, including 137 database searches for environmental reviews and 17 transfers of digital datasets.
- NRIS Web Statistics: nris.mt.gov averaged 1,898 visitor sessions per day in June and 1,804 visitor sessions per day in July. Currently, the five most requested pages are:

  > Montana Maps http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdatalib/mtmaps.aspx
  > Montana Geographic Information Clearinghouse http://nris.mt.gov/gis/
  > NRIS Home Page http://nris.mt.gov/
  > DNRC Water Right Query System
  > http://nris.mt.gov/dnrc/waterrights/default.aspx
  > Interactive Mapping and Database Applications
  > http://nris.mt.gov/interactive.html

- NHP Web Statistics: nhp.nris.mt.gov averaged 335 visitor sessions per day in June and 307 visitor sessions per day in July. Currently, the five most requested pages are:

  > Montana Natural Heritage Program http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/
  > Plant Field Guide http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/plants/guidebook.asp
  > Animal Field Guide http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/animalguide
  > Bird Distribution http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/animal/latilong_bird.asp

Species of Concern Reports http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/SpeciesOfConcern/

```
                        OCLC Digital Archive Access Summary
                                    JUN-07
Accessing                                                       Objects
Inst Name                                    Location          Accessed
UNIV OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE                California              469
MONTANA STATE LIBR                           Montana                  17
STATE LIBR OF IOWA                           Iowa                      7
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBR                        California                6
UNIV OF VIRGINIA                             Virginia                  5
US GEOL SURVEY, NAT CTR                      Virginia                  4
NORTHWESTERN UNIV                            Illinois                  2
OKLAHOMA DEPT OF LIBR                        Oklahoma                  2
VIRGINIA TRANS RES COUN                      Virginia                  2
UNIV OF ALABAMA                              Alabama                   1
CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIV, POMON     California                1
IOWA STATE UNIV                              Iowa                      1
MINNESOTA LEGIS REF LIBR                     Minnesota                 1
MONTANA STATE UNIV, MSU LIBR                 Montana                   1
BOZEMAN PUB LIBR                             Montana                   1
OCLC LIBR                                    Ohio                      1
MILES COMMUN COL LIBR                        Montana                   1
N/A                                                               1355
```

Goal Three, Consultation and Leadership: MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.

- LIS hosted several internal MSL digital library planning meetings to discuss the various content management systems currently used by the library. Our goal is to determine how best to use local and hosted solutions for preserving and providing permanent public access to library content. Our strategy is subject to ongoing change in part due to OCLC product development, available staff resources, and our affiliations with consortia like the Montana Shared Catalog and the Montana Memory Project.
- Support for wetland mapping in Montana continues to grow, thanks to hard work of NHP ecology staff. Partners now include the Bureau of Land Management (5-year agreement), Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality (EPA funds), PP&L, The Nature Conservancy, Madison County, MT-Fish Wildlife & Parks, Custer National Forest, and Plum Creek Timber.
- The NHP aquatic ecologist kicked off a statewide status survey of the western pearlshell mussel with a training and coordination workshop for FWP fisheries staff.
- NRIS wrote a 2008-2010 theme stewardship plan for the Hydrography layer of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure. The National Hydrography Dataset is a geographic representation of lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and reaches that is important to many mapping and analytical applications. NRIS is officially responsible for the Montana portion of the NHD. The plan is available at http://giscoordination.mt.gov/MiniPlans.asp.
- NRIS wrote a 2008-2010 theme stewardship plan for the Orthoimagery component of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure. Aerial and satellite imagery, in the form of digital orthoimagery, is the foundation for most public and private GIS systems. Besides providing for the acquisition of new orthoimagery in 2010, this plan reconfirms MSL's role regarding the maintenance, preservation and distribution of a full range of

existing imagery products including 1-meter color orthoimagery, higher resolution orthoimagery, black and white DOQQs, locally acquired orthoimagery, multispectral satellite imagery and historical aerial photography. The Orthoimagery stewardship plan is available at http://giscoordination.mt.gov/MiniPlans.asp.

- The Land Cover Mapping I-Team, headed by NHP staff, wrote a 2008-2010 plan for the development and stewardship of statewide Land Cover / Land Use component of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure.   Since we did not receive funding for this important effort through Montana Land Information Act grant program, we are working on alternative strategies and partnerships.
- NRIS continued a summer project for the State Historic Preservation office in which student interns are developing a GIS layer for the State Antiquities Database.
- NRIS is developing base maps for a Montana Historical Society middle school textbook. The base maps will be delivered to a graphic artist who will adapt them to produce publication quality maps.
- NHP reached agreement with officials at the University of Montana to take over the Wildlife Spatial Analysis Lab, bringing important expertise and capacity in the areas of remote sensing, vegetation mapping, and wildlife habitat analysis. Since this small staff is already located in Missoula, there is no impact on our Helena space or resources, and we will gain valuable on-campus options for future expansion.

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

- LIS continued budget and planning meetings in preparation for the Best Practices Exchange 2008 to be hosted by the Montana State Library. Menus, lodging, and entertainment were the agenda of several meetings.
- LIS accepted an invitation to add content to a 50-State Database wiki administrated by the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT), a unit of the American Libraries Association. According to the invitation "The main aim of this project is to expose content that might be unfamiliar to researchers in other states and to offer one stop access for citizens of a particular state, especially if nothing similar exists on the state level."
- LIS along with the Historical Society and the Secretary of State's office, now hold monthly meetings to consult with one another on our agencies' progress to ensure permanent public access to Montana government information.
- NHP staff attended a meeting with several major Montana land trusts and Dept. of Administration personnel to facilitate implementation of SB317, which will expand formal tracking of conservation easements (formerly tracked only by NHP). The Heritage Program will continue to document other lands with special conservation designations and to provide a one-stop source for integrated maps of public and conservation lands.

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.

- Promoted the Government Documents Specialist to Manager of Library Information Services and promoted the Metadata and Access librarian to Content Specialist.

- Managers met with MSL's consultant to work on development of performance appraisals as part of the MSdL Competency Model project.

- Four NRIS employees attended two days of training on ArcGIS Server, the next generation of ESRI software for server-based GIS. We have the software installed on a development server and are evaluating its potential for our new Digital Atlas project.