

# Montana State Digital Library (MSDL)

August 2007 – September 2007

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

- Library and Information Services (LIS) branded the search interface of BioOne database with the MSL logo and “Provided by MSL for Montana state agency employees.” LIS participated in a teleconference and in-person presentation with Progressive Technology Federal Systems, Inc. (PTFS) Digital Archive representative about their digitization and content management system products and services.
- LIS attended on-site scanning equipment demonstrations at UM-Missoula, State Law Library, and the Secretary of State Records Center.
- LIS reviewed and approved the EBSCO fall renewal list for journals according to our collection development policy.
- LIS researched and worked with the MSL network administrator to install and configure LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) software on a local computer.
- LIS conducted teleconference discussion with Robert Miller about Open Content Alliance (OCA) scanning services and possible scanning pilot.
- Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) staff members spent about ten hours each week monitoring and assisting with routine updates to a wide range of Geographic Information System (GIS) Clearinghouse datasets. Examples include monthly updates for the Cadastral land ownership database, weekly updates for Water Rights records and hourly updates for Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) ’s Air Quality Particulate Data.
- NRIS posted new versions of the Watershed Boundaries Dataset maintained by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the wells database maintained by the Groundwater Information Center.
- NRIS added City of Helena 2006 aerial photos to the orthoimagery collection.
- Natural Heritage Program (NHP) staff added over 2200 observation records from multi-year surveys of coal mines, with data and funding provided by the Dept. of Environmental Quality. These records documented 332 different species, and included 111 records for 14 Montana Species of Concern. This data is now available via the Natural Heritage Tracker website.
- NHP staff acquired and incorporated two other valuable datasets: several thousand small mammal records from the U.S. National Museum, and several thousand records from the Bureau of Land Management - Miles City office.
- NHP biologists completed nearly all field data collection projects; major data enhancements include:
  - Discovery of 7 new occurrences of water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*, a federally listed plant), as well as creation of a new GIS database documenting water howellia surveys (conducted or needed) at about 2000 ponds and wetlands in the Seeley-Swan region.
  - Rediscovery of a plant species previously known only from historical records in Montana – the flowering quillwort (*Lillaea scilloides*)
  - Many new records for Great Plains toad & plains spadefoot in northeast Montana.
  - Surveys of invertebrates continue to generate a number of new records for species previously not known from Montana.

- Members of the public submitted 200 new observation records to the Natural Heritage Tracker website during August and early September.
- Working with Montana land trusts, NHP staff updated 2007 Conservation Easement data in the statewide Land Stewardship map. This is the last update of easements that we expect to perform, as the Dept. of Revenue and Administration are assuming this responsibility under new legislation. Although the new procedures are already underway, they will not produce an updated map for users until mid-2008, so we elected to perform a final "manual" update to provide users with access to accurate information over the coming year.

**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 provided new employee orientations about MSDL services and resources on August 9th and September 13th.
- LIS continued a series of internal meetings with MSL agency web master to update web content and improve the navigation of our website.
- LIS weeded the journal collection according to the collection development guidelines and shifted various series to accommodate new journal issues.
- In consultation with Jim Hill, LIS staff drafted the Digital Library Transition plan. LIS also conducted several meetings with staff to discuss the coherence, marketing, implementation and timeline of the Digital Library Transition plan.
- 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 continued development of the Montana GIS Portal, which will facilitate patrons' efforts to publish GIS metadata records and share GIS data. The launch of the portal is scheduled for mid-Fall.
- NRIS gave a presentation about the GIS Portal at the fall meeting of the Montana Land Information Council.
- NRIS patched and tuned Map Objects and SQL Server 2005 to improve the response time and performance of all GIS Clearinghouse web applications.
- In consultation with DEQ, NRIS made improvements to the Hourly Air Quality Particulate Data web application to make it more understandable to the "average citizens" who relied upon this web page for air quality status reports throughout the fire season.
- NRIS staff spent about twenty hours each week responding to requests for information from website users, state employees and other library patrons. We helped them find information in the NRIS collection, referred them to other agencies or provided them with custom data files or maps. For example, in this report period NRIS made custom maps of the Yellowstone Park area for the Governor and provided information about the elevations of Montana's mountain ranges to a newspaper reporter.
- Use of the Natural Heritage Tracker website has totaled over 800 user sessions during August and September, averaging about 10 user-hours per day, with usage increasing steadily as more people become aware of this new service. The top three users the general public, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the US Forest Service.
- Work has begun to add Occurrence records to the Natural Heritage Tracker, which currently offers only point observation records. Occurrence records show the actual area occupied (or, in the case of many animals, the expected home range) of a species. This value-added

information is critical to many users, especially those conducting environmental impact assessments. The enhancement will also add plant Species of Concern to the wildlife data currently featured.

- NHP and Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) staff have collaborated on a new Montana Field Guides website that marks a major advance over the separate websites that each program has until now maintained (for access to the same data). The new site includes many new features and improvements and will serve as a single point of entry to NHP field guides (plants, ecology) as well as kids' field guides developed by FWP. Overall, this change will offer users more resources in a much more effective manner.
- NHP published a new report: ***Vegetation mapping report for Glacier National Park*** (including a detailed vegetation map). This effort was a collaboration of the US Geological Survey, National Park Service, Montana NHP, and NatureServe.
- NHP processed 100 mediated requests.
- OCLC Digital Archive Access Summary AUG-07

Accessing	Inst	Inst Name	Inst Location	Number of Object Access Requests	Number of Objects Accessed
	MZB	MONTANA STATE LIBR	Montana	80	80
	GIS	US GEOL SURVEY, NAT CTR	Virginia	18	18
	IOZ	STATE LIBR OF IOWA	Iowa	11	11
	CRU	UNIV OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE	California	9	9
	VA@	UNIV OF VIRGINIA	Virginia	9	9
	MZF	MONTANA STATE UNIV, MSU LIBR	Montana	8	8
	CUY	UNIV OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY	California	4	4
	MTG	UNIV OF MONTANA, MANSFIELD LIBR	Montana	4	4
	MZC	FLATHEAD CNTY LIBR	Montana	3	3
	OCC	OCLC LIBR	Ohio	3	3
	WAU	UNIV OF WASHINGTON LIBR	Washington	3	3
	MZJ	MONTANA TECH LIBR	Montana	2	2
	DLC	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS	Distr. of Columbia	1	1
	FBA	STATE LIBR OF FLORIDA	Florida	1	1
	HHLLP	HOLLAND & HART LLP	Colorado	1	1
	MDT	MINNESOTA DEPT OF TRANS LIBR	Minnesota	1	1
	MNT	UNIV OF ST THOMAS	Minnesota	1	1
	NPRKS	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	California	1	1
	OAE	NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN	Washington	1	1
	OCL	ONLINE COMPUTER LIBR CTR, INC	Ohio	1	1
	OKD	OKLAHOMA DEPT OF LIBR	Oklahoma	1	1
	TDG	VDOT RESEARCH LIBRARY	Virginia	1	1
	YVT	LEWISTOWN PUB LIBR	Montana	1	1
	Y72	FLATHEAD VAL COMMUN COL LIBR	Montana	1	1
Public		N/A		1353	1353

- NHP Web Statistics: [nhp.nris.mt.gov](http://nhp.nris.mt.gov) averaged 326 visitor sessions per day in August and 315 visitor sessions per day in September. Currently, the five most requested pages are:

Montana Natural Heritage Program <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/>

Tracker <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/tracker>  
Animal Field Guide <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/animalguide>  
Plant Field Guide <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/plants/guidebook.asp>  
Species of Concern Reports <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/SpeciesOfConcern/>

- NRIS Web Statistics: nris.mt.gov averaged 2,252 visitor sessions per day in August and 2,148 visitor sessions per day in September. 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/>  
Montana Land Ownership Maps <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/ownmaps.asp>  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Water Right Query System  
<http://nris.mt.gov/dnrc/waterrights/default.aspx>

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

- LIS hosted the Montana Government Document Librarians meeting in Helena, August 20th.
- LIS organized a digital preservation technical working group meeting to discuss the resources and collaboration necessary to establish a local content management system.
- LIS provided training sessions for state agency employees on the business and residential modules of ReferenceUSA. Mark Heisterkamp from Omaha, NE also offered to provide future webinars.
- NRIS completed a summer project for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in which we digitized a GIS layer from information in the State Antiquities Database. NRIS will begin integrating this new data with existing SHPO data and making it available to authorized persons via the GIS Clearinghouse.
- NRIS applied for and received a \$20,000 grant from the USGS to support continued stewardship of the Hydrography layer of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure. This grant, in combination with our \$44,000 grant from the Montana Land Information Act will help us make a great deal of progress on this GIS framework layer in the coming year.
- Gerry Daumiller from NRIS is gave a lecture on map projections and coordinate systems to a Carroll College GIS class on Tuesday, September 18.
- Duane Lund and Gerry Daumiller from NRIS each spent two weeks working at the State Emergency Command Center making forest fire maps to support agencies throughout the state.
- NHP staff presented two workshops on the new "GAP" land cover mapping system to BLM users in Glasgow and Miles City.
- NHP staff updated the Montana Wetlands Council on the progress of statewide wetland mapping program; to date, funding commitments are in hand to complete mapping for 25% of the state – great progress for the first year of the program!
- NHP was "in the news" with a Billings Gazette article on Montana's 10 "most dramatic natural features" (with contributions from NHP Ecologist Greg Kudray), and a TV news story on our surveys for the Cour d'Alene salamander (produced by Winston Greely of MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks).

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

- NRIS and LIS staff attended a Montana Digital Government Summit sponsored by the Secretary of State. LIS staff visited with in-state and out-of-state archivists and record managers to discuss preservation and access issues. NRIS staff attended a presentation by the state's Geographic Information Officer and fielded questions regarding the GIS clearinghouse.
- LIS attended the state agency librarian roundtable meeting.
- LIS collaborated with other state agency librarians to get MSC search box on the internal employee webpage for all state employees.
- The Natural Heritage Program established new partnership projects with...
  - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, to review and update distribution records for numerous plant species of uncertain status that could be globally significant;
  - Custer National Forest, to support mapping of wetlands in and around Custer NF in southeast Montana.
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service, to provide expert review of vegetation assessment tools and to provide training and support to NRCS field biologist in using the Natural Heritage Tracker for project reviews.
  - Dept. of Environmental Quality (with EPA funding) to improve information on isolated wetlands throughout Montana.

**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.

- LIS staff attended a "Leading Cooperative Efforts" workshop. LIS scheduled follow-up meeting with MSL managers to discuss the topic's relevance for MSL.
- Sibyl Govan, NRIS Projects Manager, attended a week of state-sponsored training on "Managing IT Projects."
- Tim Metcalfe submitted his letter of resignation from NRIS. He will move on to a position with ESRI in Washington, D.C. at the end of October. Tim has been with NRIS four years and has performed a variety of tasks including cartography, GIS programming and database administration.
- Gerry Daumiller, Sibyl Govan, Mike Price and Dave Ratz represented Montana State Library in the Second Annual "Reading the Greens" golf tournament hosted by the Hearst Free Public Library. Unfortunately, they lost the Reader's Cup trophy to a team from the Great Falls Public Library.