

## **Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)**

### **July 01, 2007 through August 31, 2007**

Prepared for October 10, 2007 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs; report represents work of Briggs, Gunderson, Madison, Meier, Miles, Stanton, as well as numerous volunteers, including AmeriCorps\*VISTA Volunteer Brian McCutcheon.

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

- In July and August, six book titles and one issue of “The Montana Magazine of Western History” and the “Montana Outdoors Magazine” were completed at both MTBL recording studios: “Trail Drive, A True Narrative of Cowboy Life from Andy Adam’s Loge of a Cowboy” by Andy Adams and Glen Rounds; “Morning Light (Lige Mounts: Free Trapper)” by Frank Bird Linderman; “The Best of Montana’s Short Fiction” by William Kittredge and Allen Morris Jones; “Then and Now, or Thirty-Six Years in the Rockies” by Robert Vaughn; “Fifty Cents an Hour: The Builders and Boomtowns of the Fort Peck Dam” by Lois Lonnquist; and “In a Far Country” by John Taliaferro.

**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.

- In July, staff instructed existing and new patrons and their assistants of the Talking Book Library’s current and new services (Montana Health Care Association’s Annual Workshop for activity directors and/or social workers of varying elder care facilities-MSL, Helena; Montana Association for the Blind’s Summer Orientation Program for Montanans who are newly diagnosed with blindness or severe low vision-Carroll College, Helena; DPHHS Blind and Low Vision Services Blind/Low Vision Support Groups, Missoula and Hamilton).
- One tour of the Talking Book Library took place in July with nineteen individuals.

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

- Staff and AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteer met with librarians and their staff at Hearst Free Library, Anaconda; Preston Public Library, Hot Springs; Glacier County Library, Cut Bank; Havre-Hill County Library, Havre; Glasgow City-County Library, Glasgow in July and August to discuss library partnerships, setting up small talking book distribution systems for patrons with low vision. While in these areas, meetings were set up with Veteran Facilities, County Health Departments, Senior Centers and Eye Care Professional offices to distribute brochures and give out information on the Talking Book Library, and low vision resources through Low Vision Montana. Recommendations for selection were sought from MSL statewide tech. librarians. Selection criteria for public libraries included focusing on rural libraries, and MTBL's annual budget for outreach.

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

- Collaborated with Western and Midlands Regional Librarians to develop the 2009 Western/Midlands conference contents.
- Partnered with National Federation of the Blind (NFB) to bring easier access to Newsline® for our patrons through suggested NFB database improvements.
- Collaborated with the National Library Service to expand their digital online audio book pilot to include Montana patrons wanting to be involved.
- Partnered with Low Vision Montana to share costs and combine outreach resources in visiting public libraries and appropriate community based organizations in 2007.