

NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL PROPOSAL
TO THE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION
(for consideration at the Commission's December 12, 2007 meeting)

An LSTA Proposal for a Downloadable E-Content Statewide Pilot Project
(Approved by the Council on November 29, 2007)

The purpose of this project is to provide startup assistance and support for a statewide downloadable E-content service that is utilized by as many Montana library patrons and staff as possible. Participation in the project will be available to interested Montana libraries. Public, school, academic, and special libraries will be encouraged to participate.

The goals of this project are to:

- Evaluate the potential use of an ongoing statewide downloadable E-content services
- Evaluate the technological skills and resources necessary to carryout statewide downloadable E-content services
- Provide a sufficient initial core content that meets a variety of patron interests
- Provide access to that content to as many patrons as possible
- Provide a platform that is readily expandable to as many libraries as possible in the most affordable manner
- Make the service available to a majority of interested libraries across the state

An LSTA grant in the amount of \$40,000 will be available to cover part of the startup costs of the project. The grant must be used to help with the costs of meeting the specified project goals.

Costs not covered by LSTA funds will be borne by participating libraries. These costs may vary based on the vendor selected. Local support may include:

- Adding titles to the core collection
- Covering part of the initial platform or other access costs
- Purchasing additional copies or checkouts of downloadable titles, depending on library size and type
- Purchase of MP3 players or similar devices for local patron use

Libraries will be encouraged to join the service for the duration of the project, based on the project goals. These benchmarks will be used, which support the project goals:

- At least one small, one medium and one large library will be added to the service during the project
- At least one library from each library federation will be added to the service during the project
- At least one public, one school, one academic, and one special library will be added to the service during the project

- A library consortium sharing a single ILS (integrated library system) that is interested in joining the service may do so. When appropriate and mutually beneficial to the project and the interested consortium, a consortium may be added to the service in the same manner that a single library with a standalone ILS would be added. Individual libraries within a consortium may also individually join the service.

Montana State Library staff will work with the selected vendor and the project libraries to provide training and technical assistance throughout the project. Within the limits of available MSL resources, training, technical assistance, and other project support will be provided as needed in these areas:

- Selection of a core collection
- Initial configuration and setup
- Advice on the selection of MP3 players and other devices for downloadable content
- Library staff and patron training in the use and circulation of downloadable content
- Advice on bandwidth requirements
- Marketing materials
- Other areas of need as identified and requested by the participating libraries