REVISED LSTA Proposal for a Downloadable E-Content Statewide Pilot
2/29/08

The purpose of this pilot is to provide startup assistance and support for a downloadable E-content service. There will be an initial group of participating libraries in the first year of this pilot. These libraries have committed local funding to this pilot to add to a proposed LSTA grant in order to launch and test this service. This initial group of participants could be followed, in subsequent years, by additional groups of libraries joining the service, under additional funding. It is possible that as many as 100-150 libraries could eventually participate in these services.

First Year Group: participating libraries (and their locations) are:

> Big Horn County Library (Hardin)
> Flathead County Library (Kalispell, Big Fork, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Marion)
> Glendive Public Library (Glendive)
> Hearst Free Public Library (Anaconda)
> Lewistown Public Library (Lewistown)
> Miles City Public Library (Miles City)
> Miles Community College Library (Miles City)
> Missoula Public Library (Missoula)
> Parmly Billings Public Library (Billings)
> Polson City Library (Polson)
> Roosevelt County Library (Wolf Point)
> Sidney Public Library (Sidney)
> William K. Kohrs Memorial Library (Deer Lodge)

The goals of this pilot are to:

- Evaluate the technological skills and resources necessary to carryout 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 within the initial focus group
- Evaluate the potential of an ongoing statewide downloadable E-content service
- Provide a platform that is readily expandable to as many libraries as possible in the most affordable manner
- Assess the sustainability and affordability of the service as it might expand 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 pilot. The grant must be used to help with the costs of meeting the specified pilot goals.

Costs not covered by LSTA funds will be borne by the initial 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

Montana State Library staff will work with the selected vendor and the pilot libraries to provide training and technical assistance throughout the pilot. Within the limits of available MSL resources, training, technical assistance, and other pilot 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 initial participating libraries