

August 22, 2008

Dear Montana Librarians;

Please know that at their meeting on August 13th, the Montana State Library Commission (Commission) directed me to move ahead on the legislative revisions to the Information Access Montana statute as recommended by the Fulfillment Task Force, and further supported by the Network Advisory Council.

I have attached to this letter a copy of the proposed legislative change, both a lined copy with original text as the legislators will see it as well as a "clean" copy that may be easier to read. I have also attached a brief summary as presented to the Governor's office and the Education and Local Government Subcommittee.

We are seeking these revisions in the legislation:

- We are proposing to amend sections 22-1-301, 22-1-328, 22-1-329, and 22-1-330 MCA.
- In Section 1 (MCA 22-1-301) we want to clarify the definition of public library in Montana by including public library district libraries (22-1-701 through 22-1-706), as well as public libraries established under 22-1-303 through 22-1-317 and Title 7.
- In Section 2 (MCA 22-1-328) we propose a change to the interlibrary loan reimbursement program language that would establish a statewide interlibrary resource-sharing program. This would allow the Commission to administer funds appropriated by the legislature to support and facilitate a broader scope of resource-sharing options among libraries in Montana.

This change would give options but would not dictate direction. It could mean that individual libraries would no longer receive direct interlibrary loan reimbursement checks from the state. Instead, the door would be open to use the available funds for other resource-sharing opportunities. One example that has been put forward is to have the State Library use these repurposed funds to make a lump sum payment directly to OCLC to reduce the individual costs of all libraries participating in the Montana OCLC Group Services Contract.

- In Section 3 (MCA 22-1-329) we propose to change the state multilibrary card program to a statewide library access program. This would allow the creation of a voluntary statewide library access program whereby a participating library may allow access to the library's materials and services by users from another libraries' service area population.

This change would mean that a separate physical card would not be necessary; the patron's local library card would suffice.

This change would also mean that a library could participate or not depending on its users needs and wants.

This change would mostly refer to physical materials, not necessarily locally-purchased subscriptions to electronic materials.

- Section 4 (MCA 22-1-330) changes the titles of the programs for which the State Library Commission would retain rule making authority.

Again, the proposed legislation revisions would make more options available. An administrative rules process would then be required to dictate the change in distribution of the funds.

The Fulfillment Task Force recommended that in the rule making process the Commission repurpose the interlibrary loan reimbursement monies toward partial payment of the statewide OCLC bill (to reduce all libraries' costs for participating in OCLC), and, to also support the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) ongoing operations cost (to help reduce the ongoing costs of MSC libraries making it more feasible for additional libraries to join the MSC). The Network Advisory Council supported this recommendation and further encouraged the Commission to work toward payment of the full OCLC statewide bill if possible.

With these recommendations in mind, the Commission would like to ask three or four questions of you. State Library Staff as well as some Commissioners will be at many of your meetings and training opportunities this fall and will be glad to visit more with you and/or your legislators on these issues. We will take a formal poll of these questions from October 27th through November 7th. Please respond to these questions via a Survey Monkey web site, which will be provided to you on or before October 27th, or via an E-mail message directed to Darlene Staffeldt at dstaffeldt@mt.gov, or by a letter sent to the attention of Darlene Staffeldt at Montana State Library, 1515 East 6th Ave, Helena, MT 59620-1800. If you have questions and/or comments on the legislation at this time, please send me an e-mail or letter at the addresses above.

- Question 1. Can and will you support these legislative changes when your legislator asks your opinion? Yes, or No,
- Question 2, If no, please explain why you can not support these changes.
- Question 3, Would you like to see the approximately \$200,000 (annual) currently used for interlibrary loan reimbursement repurposed for the statewide OCLC bill **and** the MSC? Yes or No, comments?
- Question 4, Would you like to see the approximately \$200,000 (annual) currently used for interlibrary loan reimbursement repurposed for the statewide OCLC bill **only**? Yes or No, comments?

Please let us know your preferences. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darlene Staffeldt
Your State Librarian