

Montana State Digital Library

October 2008 through January 2009

Prepared for February 11, 2009 Commission meeting by Jennie Stapp, Digital Library Division Administrator. This report represents accomplishments of:

Library Information Services (LIS),
Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP),
Natural Resource Information System (NRIS).

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

Library Information Services (LIS) staff activity continues at a feverish pitch in order to meet our goal to digitize 660,000 pages of state publications from our legacy print collection by the end of the FY09. Staff goes through the physical stacks to pull out publications to be digitized and to find appropriate new homes for materials that are not state publications but that have historically been included in this collection. Collection gaps are filled by asking agencies for publications that were never originally submitted. Holdings for many serials publications are being added to the online catalog, making these publications discoverable for the first time. Other staff is busy preparing the state publications to be shipped for scanning while simultaneously opening boxes of recently returned digitized state publications. Regular communication with the Montana Historical Society helps us fulfill the memorandum of understanding goal to create complete repositories of print and digital state publications. Other staff works to automate the process to download new digital content from the Internet Archive and to add the content to the Montana Memory Project. These staff created never-done-before processes that will contribute to the software development owned by library consortia. Interest in scan-on-request service continues to grow thereby changing traditional methods of interlibrary loan and user expectations. As of January 14, 2009, 82 boxes of state publications have been shipped containing 5243 state publications resulting in 231,015 scanned pages.

The pace of our work is fueled in part by growing public interest due to recent marketing efforts. We have added a new digitization project web page (<http://msl.mt.gov/digitization/default.asp>); a new collections page for the Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org/details/MontanaStateLibrary>); images of newly digitized legacy state publications appear on the MSL homepage; posters for legislative day hang in the public reading area; an online digitization workflow poster (<http://msl.mt.gov/digitization/tourflow.asp>) helps explain the process to other interested librarians; and a new processing area begets some questions from curious library visitors.

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.

On the first of the year, staff unveiled a new Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) website: <http://nhp.nris.mt.gov/>. It maintains the same popular content and structure, but sports a new look consistent with the State of Montana web template. MTNHP staff also took this opportunity to give the content a good house-cleaning and updating.

Our major user applications such as the **Natural Heritage TRACKER**, the **Montana Field Guide**, and **Species of Concern Search** are still found in the middle of the home page as well as being accessible throughout the web site.

Overall, the web site is divided into six major areas:

- **Animals:** information and links about Montana's animal Species of Concern.
- **Plants:** information and links about Montana's plant Species of Concern.
- **Ecology:** information and links about Montana's plant communities and ecosystems, aquatic information, and the **Montana Wetland and Riparian Mapping Center**.
- **Publications:** lists and links to publications by the Natural Heritage Program as well as a new tool to search the Montana State Library Catalog.
- **Data:** information about getting and using data from the Natural Heritage Program.
- **About:** links and information about the Natural Heritage Program including staff contacts and bios, current projects, news releases, major partners, and our strategic plan.

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

NRIS celebrated GIS Day on November 19, 2008 with 75 3rd, 4th and 5th graders from Smith Elementary in Helena. Activities included a walk around the school to identify local fauna, demonstrations on the use of the Montana Field Guide and Google Earth, and a cartography lecture. The highlight of the day was a guest lecture by Jack Nesbit, historian and biographer of early Montana explorer David Thompson. Mr. Nesbit shared early maps of the area created by David Thompson and talked to students about the impact both Thompson's early education and his relationship with native tribes had on his explorations and map making. To conclude GIS Day, Mr. Nesbit gave an evening lecture at the Montana Historical Society. Thanks to the work of Sara Groves, the local news station reported on these activities during their evening broadcasts.

MSDL also reinstated its monthly seminar program. During the October program Gerry Daumiller demonstrated the Montana GIS Portal to about 35 GIS users from state and federal agencies as well as staff from companies like Northwestern Energy. In November staff from the Helena National Forest discussed the bark beetle epidemic sweeping Montana. More than 50 people attended this lecture to learn more about this issue and to discuss the Forest Service's plans for dealing with the problem. This event, too, made the local news.

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

NRIS and the staff of the Base Map Service Center began regular meetings to find ways to foster collaboration and goodwill. Initially, staff of these two programs met in December with a facilitator to identify problems or misconceptions about our programs and to agree on the need for better communication to prevent future conflicts. This meeting was followed by a joint staff meeting in January. At this meeting staff discussed our backgrounds and roles in our agencies to identify resources among our staff that can be shared. We also discussed current projects where there are opportunities for collaboration. We agreed to hold joint staff meetings on a quarterly basis.

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.

NRIS hired Evan Hammer for the NRIS Manager position. Evan comes to us from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) where he worked as the GIS Coordinator for the past two years. Evan is familiar with NRIS as he has worked with our staff in many capacities; he was the DNRC representative to the NRIS Advisory Committee and the State ESRI Enterprise License Agreement Management Group, Evan was a representative to the Montana Land Information Advisory Council and he worked with NRIS staff on a number of projects including the Montana GIS Portal. Additionally Evan has experience working on field studies in both Glacier National Park and in Utah. This experience led him to appreciate the value of GIS as a service to many disciplines and will make him a valuable asset in his work with the Montana Natural Heritage Program and with our numerous agency partners and patrons.