

Montana State Digital Library

August through September 2009

Prepared for the October 7, 2009 Commission meeting
by Jennie Stapp, Digital Library Division Administrator.

This report represents accomplishments of:

Library Information Services (LIS),
Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP),
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.

LIS conducted its annual review of existing electronic and print journal subscriptions. Titles that met the collection development criteria for retention as outlined in the collection development policy were renewed. This summer LIS also increased its federal depository selection rate from its current 8% rate of what the Government Printing Office (GPO) publishes to 12%. Receipt of these new titles becomes official October 1, 2009. LIS anticipates increased use of this collection which is now more focused on natural resource information, more complete and nearly completely cataloged. Use of this collection will be closely monitored to determine if increased use indeed occurs.

Staff of MTNHP has been busy over the summer collecting data that will make our databases more complete for users. Staff conducted a variety of field surveys for amphibians, mussels, wildlife diversity (in partnership with the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP)), federally-listed plant species, bats and birds. MTNHP staff is also working to digitize the precise locations and extent of prairie dog colonies statewide. Information about prairie dog colonies is of major importance to users but, in the past, the job was too big and was impeded by both technology and funding. Thanks to financial help from the Bureau of Land Management and MFWP, MTNHP dedicated our primary biologist/data specialist, Scott Blum, to this major task;

it's scheduled to be completed by fall. Getting all the prairie dog data into the MTNHP data system will be a real milestone and a major tool for resource managers and decision-makers who rely on MTNHP services.

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 October 1, NRIS will release an update to the Montana Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Portal. This update is necessary as a result of changes in GIS technology since the original Montana GIS Portal release. The new portal will feature a clean new interface, better search results, and improved access to a wider variety of map service types. Testing of the new portal is currently underway. GIS users are encouraged to attend the Portal kickoff session at the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) technical session in Kalispell on October 21. This session will include a demo of the new portal and tips for portal users. We encourage you to visit the portal – <http://gisportal.mt.gov> – and to provide feedback to help improve the portal – gisportal@mt.gov.

LIS is conducting a series of tests to evaluate the feasibility of moving all its digital state publications to the Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org/details/MontanaStateLibrary>). This site provides by far the best document viewer for online publications known and the variety of file formats available for download from the Internet Archive exceeds any other online content management system. LIS is currently investigating how best to batch upload files and associated metadata to this potential, new digital depository. Meanwhile, LIS will continue to provide digital access to its state publications via the Montana Memory Project (<http://mtmemory.org>).

Another major data resource that MTNHP will soon launch is a new statewide vegetation – land cover map, a basic digital “coverage,” that many, many types of users are eagerly awaiting. Primary users include state and federal biologists and resource managers. These users will use the maps to identify and model animal and plant habitat, to identify

conservation and management opportunities, and to predict the occurrence of species of concern. The primary mapping was completed by the US Geological Survey (USGS) in partnership with the University of Idaho. MTNHP ecologists are closely involved in consultation and are making corrections and improvements to the final product. MTNHP is also preparing a web-based "Field Guide to Montana's Ecological Systems" to help users correctly interpret over 80 mapping units that will appear on these maps. These maps will also be viewable and downloadable via the web.

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

NRIS and the USGS sponsored a two-day meeting August 25 and 26 to encourage the move towards the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) as a single state hydrography. "The NHD is a comprehensive set of digital spatial data representing the surface water of the United States using common features such as lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, canals, and oceans. These data are designed to be used in general mapping and in the analysis of surface-water systems..." (<http://nhd.usgs.gov/> accessed 9/18/2009). Key users of hydrologic data attended the meeting including staff from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Department of Transportation. NRIS and the USGS invited Cindy McKay of Horizon Systems, an expert on the NHD, to discuss the dataset, the value-added NHD Plus, and a process to convert from other data standards used in the state to NHD. Attendees saw the clear value that can come from having a single hydrography but a conversion to NHD will not be easy. To test the process, NHD steward Duane Lund will work with Cindy McKay to test a conversion of MFWP's hydrography data currently in the Longitude Latitude Identification system to NHD.

The Montana State Library received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2009 ESRI International User Conference (ESRI UC) in San Diego, California. The organization received this honor for its vision, leadership, and innovative use of ESRI's geographic

information system (GIS) technology. The library was one of approximately 150 recipients selected from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide.

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

Steve Jeffery, the natural resources librarian responsible for managing the federal document collection, attended the state-wide federal depository library meeting in Bozeman in August. Locally, this same librarian has also been coordinating with other area depository libraries to insure collection completeness for specific natural resource-related federal document series including the USGS annual reports and professional papers and Smithsonian Contributions to the Earth Sciences.

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.

The Montana State Library and the Internet Archive again signed a contract to continue the ongoing state publications digitization project. The establishment of an intricate workflow from the previous fiscal year and a reduced scanning budget of \$30,000 for FY2010 will relieve some pressure from the reduced number of staff as it works to complete the contract on time. (The FY2009 digitization contract included funds from two fiscal years totaling \$66,000. Ongoing digitization will be funded on an annual basis beginning this year, thus resulting in fewer available funds for this contract year).

LIS and the entire State Library also grieve the sudden loss of long-time employee, Kathy Madison who worked as our Digital Services Technician. Kathy's friendship, quiet demeanor, kindness, institutional memory, and significant role in our ongoing digitization project will be sorely missed.