Montana State Library Report
A Summary for Fall 2010 Meetings
By Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian and others
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Connect @ your Library Our Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grant Application, which was submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce on March 14, 2010, is entitled: "Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries". The notification of the funding award was received on July 2, 2010. The Montana State Library staff wrote the grant with assistance from Boston-based consultants, CSMG, who were funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

NTIA will provide $1,829,473 toward funding the total grant project. Additionally, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) is providing $665,000 in financial support that will apply toward NTIA's matching funds requirement. This BMGF support includes a grant of $590,000 for project activities and consultant assistance in the development of the BTOP application. The project funding and implementation will take place over the next three years, with some of the 42 participating public libraries beginning to see new computers, and more this fiscal year and some libraries will not get new materials until next fiscal year.

The grant award runs from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013.   We will officially launch the project on October 12-13, 2010 at an event entitled "Connect@ your library", which will be funded by BMGF. This hosted event will bring together the Montana State Library, project partners, participating libraries, and state and community leaders to strengthen partnerships that can help successfully launch, implement and sustain the improvements to the project's enhanced public computing centers and the benefits they bring to Montanans.

The MSL BTOP grant application can be found at:
http://msl.mt.gov/BTOP/MSL_FINAL_MT_BTOP_APP031410.pdf

Continuing Education Opportunities

Two leadership workshops are scheduled for library directors and board members. Please plan to join us on Saturday, October 9th in Billings at the Hilton Garden Inn or on Saturday, November 6th in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn.
We've invited Pat Wagner, Pattern Research (Denver), to return to MT for these workshops. Pat is a distinguished library consultant and trainer with a special interest in library boards and the important role of library trustees. She'll share her expertise on the role of library leaders in serving their communities and provide some ideas on surviving these tough economic times. Registration will begin in early fall.

Courier Pilot Update The Montana Courier Pilot now includes 34 participating libraries with 12 drop sites. The number of items being moved by the contracted courier is steadily increasing and some larger libraries are beginning to see cost reductions through use of the courier, in amounts of $100-$300 per month including postage, staff time and mailing supplies. In August, 865 items were moved via the Courier Pilot, a 19% increase over July's total. Information about participating in the pilot and a list of current participants is at http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Statewide_Projects/default.asp

Database/Subscription Renewals The statewide EBSCO and Gale database subscriptions have been renewed for FY2011 without changes to the databases. The Heritage Quest subscription for public libraries will be renewed this fall through LSTA funding provided by the State Library and contributions from individual libraries based on a local shared cost formula. Lewis and Clark Library (Helena) is contributing $1,000 in addition to its cost formula share to ensure that Heritage Quest is available for all Montana public libraries. The OCLC Group Services contract has also been renewed for FY2011 and OCLC is currently processing enrollment for those libraries that enrolled by the June deadline. Libraries that did not make the June enrollment can still enroll via the online Montana Library Directory process. The contract with OverDrive was also renewed for FY2011, which serves libraries offering MontanaLibrary2Go.

Digital Atlas As part of the on-going development of the Montana GIS Portal, NRIS will launch a beta version of our new Digital Atlas this fall. This tool takes advantage of new technology to combine the functionality of many of our well- known applications including Topofinders 1 and 2, the Data Bundler and the old Digital Atlas providing a one-stop-shop for information previously provided by these individual applications. We will be seeking feedback from the library community about this application over the coming months.

Digitization Project The Montana State Library Information Services Division (LIS) is beginning our third year of our on-going project to digitize our legacy print publications collection. Our partnership with the Internet Archive has proven very successful; their mission to provide "universal access to all knowledge" pairs well with our mandate to provide "permanent public access" to Montana government information. We are nearing the one million page mark for the number of pages digitized to date so look for publicity about this milestone in the next few months. For those people interested in more information about the digitization project, LIS has prepared an online "virtual tour" of the digitization project that documents our workflow, provides links to videos of the Internet Archive scanning center, answers frequently asked questions and more. Learn more at: http://msl.mt.gov/digitization/. Contact for more information or questions: Jim Kammerer, LIS Manager, jkammerer@mt.gov or 406-444-5432.

Ecological Systems Guides   Late last spring, the Montana Natural Heritage Program added a new feature to the Montana Field Guide, the Ecological Systems Guides. These guides describe biological communities found throughout Montana including forests and woodlands, alpine areas, shrub land, grassland, sparse areas and wetlands.

Information about each biological community includes associated plant and animal species, dynamic processes that impact these ecological systems and maps of where these systems are found within Montana. Also of note, the Montana Field Guide now includes a link to WorldCat for each species described. These links launch custom searches in WorldCat that assists users to find more resources about species of interest. This link is found at the bottom of each species report under "Web Search Engines for Articles." You can try this feature by going to http://fieldguide.mt.gov/ and searching for a species.

Geographic Literacy Campaign   Continuing our effort to encourage geographic awareness among librarians and library patrons and to increase use of online applications that highlight Montana's natural resources, the Montana State Library launched our first prototype natural resource companion, the Hunting Companion, in time for hunting season. This online website includes links to resources from the State Library, Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Base Map Service Center. The website is designed to help hunters answer four basic questions: what to hunt, when to hunt, where to hunt and how to hunt. Testing for the site was conducted by subject matter experts as well as a task force of librarians.   You can visit the Hunting Companion at http://msl.mt.gov/hunting/. Resources to market the Hunting Companion to your patrons are also available on the What's Your Story site and print resources, including posters and postcards, will be distributed at the Fall Workshop.

Additionally, the State Library is sponsoring a session at the Fall Workshop on using geographic information systems to better understand and develop library services for our patrons. The workshop will be led by Christopher G. Markuson, GIS manager for Pueblo, Colorado. Chris has worked extensively with his local library to implement GIS in planning and programming. This workshop will be a great introduction for librarians interested in learning more about GIS.

Montana Library Day   Thank you for participating in Montana Library Day. Libraries around the state participated in this event on September 15th. Many librarians shared pictures, stories, and statistics from their patrons. You can see preliminary results at http://www.msl.mt.gov/LibraryDay/results/default.asp. We plan to use the statistics during the launch of the BTOP grant, and will also make use of all items we collect during the 2011 legislative session. Additionally, libraries will be able to download a personalized brochure that will showcase their library's stats and compare them to the state's stats.

Montana State Library Commission (MSLC)   The next meeting of the MSLC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2010 and will be held in Helena, Mt. Commission information can be found at: http://www.msl.MT.gov/About_MSL/commission/default.asp.

Montana State Library Staff updates   After reviewing more than 50 applications, LIS offered the State Publications Librarian to our own Myrtle Humphreys. Myrtle has served as the Digital Services Technician since January of this year. This position was

held vacant for more than a year in order to meet state budget requirements so we are pleased to be able to fill this critical position.

Sadly, NRIS accepted the resignation of our GIS Web Developer Jeff Dobb. Jeff left NRIS to accept a position with the Department of Commerce as a programmer with their Broadband Mapping Program. Jeff will be working directly with our partner the Base Map Service Center, so we are pleased that we will still have the opportunity to work closely with him. We are currently reviewing this job description and plan to advertise this position soon.

Montana Talking Book Library update In June, 2009, MTBL staff announced the availability of digital talking books and players, making a qualitative leap into the modern age of technology. Nearly 20,000 digital talking books and nearly 1,200 digital players from MTBL have been circulated to over 2,500 Montana patrons. The National Library Service (NLS) Braille and Audio Reading Download service (BARD) was made available for qualified patrons. Thousands of accessible NLS BARD books have now been downloaded by Montana patrons. The excitement generated from introducing digital talking book services to our patrons is very gratifying. We receive daily comments from patrons on how much they are enjoying the improved digital services.

Network Advisory Council (NAC) The NAC met in Helena on the evening of July 26th and all day on the 27th to do some brainstorming and future thinking discussions. The NAC welcomed three new appointees: Ann Rutherford from Miles Community College as the new small academic/community college representative, Debbi Kramer from Three Forks Community Library as the new small public library representative, and Gale Bacon from the Belgrade Public Library as the new Montana Shared Catalog representative.   Another new appointee who was not able to attend this meeting is Beth Chestnut from Thompson Falls Elementary School Library as the small school library representative. The next meeting for the Council is scheduled for November 9, 2010 in Helena. Council information can be found at: http://msl.MT.gov/About_MSL/network_advisory_council/network_tf.asp.

NRIS and the Base Map Service Center to Co-locate The Montana State Library, Natural Resource Information System and the Montana Dept. of Administration's Base Map Service Center (BMSC) are pleased to announce that we will be co-located within the Library. This physical move is tentatively scheduled for November. Like NRIS, the BMSC serves as a theme steward for framework layers of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) including transportation, administrative boundaries, critical structures and land ownership. This means that they are responsible for creating, maintaining and providing public access to this data. One of the many advantages of this relationship is that all the state-stewarded MSDI themes will be under one roof, allowing easy interaction between the Montana Natural Heritage Program, NRIS and BMSC. Staff and management are excited about this new level of improved coordination and the many benefits this coordination will bring to the GIS community in Montana.   We look forward to future opportunities for increased collaboration that will

result in even more effective and efficient management of spatial data content, data access and archiving, and GIS coordination, education and outreach efforts.

Ready 2 Read The Montana State Library is continuing to support early literacy efforts from throughout the state. We have distributed nearly all of the 45 bins to libraries that fulfilled the requirements to get one. More bins will be distributed this year to qualifying libraries. The bins included 38 board books and a book for librarians on how to incorporate teaching early literacy skills to parents and caregivers into their storytimes. In order to qualify for the bins, libraries had to a) complete a survey; b) complete two early literacy trainings; c) agree to establish a regularly-scheduled "Books and Babies" program; and d) agree to report on their progress and how they are using the bins. A form will be distributed soon to libraries that received the bins last year at MLA to begin the reporting process.

In addition to the Ready 2 Read early literacy outreach effort, MSL also partnered with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to develop a trunk program that provides childcare providers, preschoolers, early elementary educators, parents and caregivers, and libraries an opportunity to share language, literacy, learning, and nature with some of Montana's youngest citizens, children from ages 3 – 7 years old. Part of MSL's statewide early literacy initiative, Ready 2 Read, Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! uses nature and Montana animals to spark kids' interest in language and literacy, math and science, and the natural world that surrounds them. Each of the Ready 2 Read Goes Wild! trunks focuses on a theme. The themes for the current trunks include owls, ungulates (hooved animals), bears, and animal tracks. Each trunk includes puppets; a number of age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction books on the theme; rubber tracks; and animal parts, including items such as skulls, hides, antlers, feathers, and hooves.

Upcoming library meeting dates

- o October 7, 2010 – Pathfinder Federation Meeting, Fort Benton, Mt
- o October 9, 2010 – Library Boards and Library Finances, Billings, Mt
- o October 12 & 13, 2010 – Connect @ your library, Helena, Mt
- o October 13, 2010 – Commission meeting, Helena, Mt
- o November 6, 2010 – Sagebrush Federation Meeting, Miles City, Mt
- o November 6, 2010 – Library Boards and Library Finances, Missoula, Mt
- o November 9, 2010 – Network Advisory Council meeting, Helena, Mt
- o December 1, 2010 – Commission meeting, Helena, Mt