

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

November 11, 2010 through January 20, 2011

Prepared for February 9, 2011 Commission Teleconference meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL staff: Briggs, Gunderson, Landry, Meier and Stanton, plus 100 volunteers.

Goal One – Content – *Montana State Library (MSL)/MTBL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

Nov. 11, 2010 – Jan. 20, 2011: six books and one magazine issues of ***The Montana Magazine of Western History*** and the ***Montana Outdoors Magazine*** were completed at both MTBL recording studios: ***The Way of the Sacred Pipe*** by Jim Tree; ***X. Beidler: Vigilante*** by Helen Fitzpatrick Sanders & William H. Bertsche, Jr.; ***Conrad Kohrs: An Autobiography*** by Conrad Kohrs Warren; ***Tree Girl*** by Ben Mikaelson; ***Notes For a Novel: The Selected Poems of Frieda Fligelman*** by Editors Alexander R. Swaney & Rick Newby and ***Rain in the Woods*** by Glen Rounds.

Goal Two—Access – *MSL/MTBL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

Circulation of digital materials continues to increase as expected. Our collection of new digital books is rapidly building. There are now over 4,250 digital titles with 15,420 copies of these titles in our collection. There are nearly 20,000 digital titles on the BARD download website for the National Library Service.

New patrons totaled 33 for November, 29 in December and 19 added so far in January.

Goal Three—Consultation and Leadership – *MSL/MTBL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.*

Nov. 11, 2010 – Jan. 20, 2011, two new volunteers signed up: Sharon Miller (circulation) and Hailey Nottingham (LISD).

Goal Four—Collaboration – *MSL/MTBL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

One staff and a volunteer made a Braille presentation at Central Elementary School, Helena on November 17th to 42 kindergarten students and their teachers.

MTBL continues to collaborate monthly with the National Library Service teleconference meetings which include all Talking Book Librarians nationwide in implementing the next phase of the digital program.

See the attached request from Montana Audio Information Network (MAIN) to assist patrons in accessing Montana audio newspapers.

Staff and volunteers participated in the January 18th Legislative Library event, offering legislators an overview and tour of Talking Book Library digital library services to our patrons. Diane Gunderson co-chaired the event for MSL and Martin Landry was the MTBL committee representative. Sandy Stanton and Christie Briggs participated in the event as well.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success – *MSL/MTBL 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.*

November and December staff coverage for vacations, holidays, jury duty, illnesses and a fluctuating workflow caused by these factors was a major challenge for staff and volunteers but was accomplished by a team effort.

On Jan. 13th and 14th, the National Library Service Consultant, Vickie Collins, conducted an onsite visit. She reviewed all procedures and operations of the Montana Talking Book Library, comparing them to the American Library Association's standards for Special Libraries. This is a planned biannual review process. Overall, our library is following the standards appropriately and efficiently and is on schedule with the digital program roll-out. MTBL staff was praised for teamwork in serving patrons. The two-monitor workstations and other operational implementations were highly praised. Diane Gunderson was commended for the local Recording Program operations, including a newly developed local quality assurance committee (comprised of patrons) that reviews each recorded book upon completion, prior to being distributed to patrons.

Specifically, Ms. Collins offered the highest praise to Carolyn Meier for leading the Talking Book Library Network in the Random Shelving (RS) system she has implemented. Carolyn's RS system is the newest upgrade to an originally tested "Turnaround system". The RS system no longer requires shifting the entire collection and allows for "weeding on the go" which has greatly increased efficiency over previous shelving systems. Ms. Collins indicated that the successful lessons learned here in Montana with Random Shelving would be beneficial to other regional talking book libraries.