

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

March 19, 2011 through May 20, 2011 Prepared for June 8, 2011

Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL staff: Bickel, 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.*

Between March 19th and May 20th, Eight recording projects were completed:

1 magazine issue - ***Montana Outdoors Magazine***

7 books -- ***Strange Empire: A Narrative of the Northwest*** by Joseph Kinsey Howard; ***Charles M. Russell: The Life & Legend of American's Cowboy Artist*** by John Taliaferro; ***Montana Moments: History on the Go*** by Ellen Baumler; ***Yesterday's Yarns*** by Ken Overcast; ***Dreams with Horses*** by Rachel M. Jessop; ***Sherlock Holmes: The Montana Chronicles*** by John H. Watson, M.D.; and ***Dark Spaces: Montana's historic Penitentiary at Deer Lodge*** by Ellen Baumler.

1,834 book pages were recorded during this reported period.

Montana author, Pat Hagan, began recording his book ***Seasonal Disorder: Ranger Tales From Glacier National Park*** in person in our recording studio in May.

MTBL has been collaborating with the Montana State Prison (MSP) Librarian and Education Department to update the existing MTBL recording booth and equipment in MSP's low security library. Established in 1983, this program has been valuable to MTBL patrons, especially for rush projects, and has given MSP inmates an opportunity to create quality recordings for Montanan citizens with disabilities. On May 11th, the current MSP recording studio was not salvageable and was demolished during remodeling at MSP. All MTBL recording equipment and supplies were returned to us. We will continue to collaborate with MSP's librarian and education director to pursue funding for a new MSP digital recording booth and equipment in the future.

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.*

1,464 books were downloaded from BARD by MTBL patrons in April and May. 104 BARD patrons are now registered.

A new BARD demonstration service for institutions, schools and public libraries has been created by the National Library Service in response to needs identified by libraries for the blind and physically handicapped, under the new National Library Service administration (see attached BARD Institution policy).

Seventy-six new patrons registered for MTBL services during the time period of this report.

There are 5,244 digital titles with 19,268 copies being circulated from our in-house collection. There are over 20,000 digital titles posted for download on BARD.

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

Forty-four Colstrip Elementary School fourth grade students and teachers received MTBL Braille education materials in April. MTBL received a most welcome certificate of appreciation (attached).

Dawson and Wibaux County Health Departments received MTBL educational materials to distribute to their County Health Fair attendees.

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

Carolyn Meier attended and presented a program on Random Shelving at the Western Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) Conference in Golden, Colorado in May.

Christie Briggs gave a BARD presentation, on April 8th, at the Montana Library Association meeting in Billings.

Two Experience Works trainees completed MTBL training and moved on to other host sites with additional skills for potential employment.

One new volunteer signed up: Diana Norton (clerical & recording program).

MTBL partnered with Career Training Institute's (CTI) Young Adult Program to train an individual in various support services of the Library.

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MTBL collaborated with Montana Association for the Blind (MAB) to offer 25 Victor Reader Stream digital players to MTBL patrons, with priority given to high school and college students and adults who are either employed or seeking employment.

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.*

Martin Landry, Readers' Advisor, completed his one year anniversary in MTBL- April 26th.

MTBL staff have been working on the MSL's strategic plan for MTBL.