

State Librarian's Report January 2012

Prepared for the February 8, 2012 Commission meeting
by Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

Over the next three months, the State Librarian's reports will report progress towards the successful fulfillment of the State Librarian's Work Plan.

Complete the State of Montana Leadership Challenge

Attendance is on hold pending scheduling of the Challenge by the State Professional Development Center.

Build successful working relationship with contacts in the Governor's office and keep office informed of present status of library services and future needs.

Because much of this probationary period is dedicated to relationship-building, I believe it is important to expand this goal to include the State Legislature, Montana's Congressmen and county representation. To that end:

Letters of introduction were sent to the following persons:

- Governor Brian Schweitzer
- Dan Villa, Governor's Budget Director
- Senator Tester
- Senator Baucus
- Representative Rehberg
- Representative Elsie Arntzen, Chair Education and Local Government Interim Committee
- Harold Blattie, Executive Director of the Montana Association of Counties
- Steve Bullock, Attorney General

Letters of introduction were sent to all agency directors on January 18, 2012

On January 12 I met with Shawn Graham, Nancy Hall, OPBB Budget Analyst, and Stuart Fuller, ITSD Chief Technology Officer, to review options to develop and fund the State enterprise GIS architecture. The outcome of this meeting is currently pending; OBPP staff will discuss the needs with Dan Villa, Budget Director.

On January 19 I had an introductory phone conversation with Vivian Hammill from the Governor's Budget office. We agreed that it would be beneficial to meet over coffee to

discuss the State Library's partnership with the Governor's Office. Vivian plans to call to schedule a meeting in the next couple of weeks to follow up.

I was formally invited by Representative Arntzen to introduce myself to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee at their January 23 meeting where I was warmly received by the Committee. I shared with them my vision for the State Library as outlined in my Work Plan. I was asked a question about the status of the courier program which was an initiative before the Education Committee during the last two Legislative sessions and is now on their radar again with the launch of the grassroots initiative by five Montana libraries to resurrect the program. MLA has also requested more time on the Committee's March meeting agenda.

On January 23 I had a phone call with Representative Jon Sesso of Butte. He asked questions about MSL's need to change the Montana Land Information Act and about the new courier program. Jon is term-limited out in the House but is running for Senate in Butte. He reiterated his strong support for the Library.

On January 26 I will meet with Bruce Whittenberg, new Director of the Montana Historical Society, about existing and future opportunities for collaborations between our two agencies.

Identify and pursue new funding and marketing opportunities for the State Library.

On January 4, Sarah McHugh, Colet Bartow and I met with Dennis Parman, the Deputy Director of OPI, to discuss OPI's interest in including schools in the BTOP broadband feasibility study. Pending OPI's interest in funding an expanded study scope, the feasibility study could lead to future partnerships with OPI.

The Executive Committee of the MSC has also invited Dennis Parman to an upcoming committee meeting to educate him about the MSC regarding its needs as it supports school libraries. The outcome of this and future meetings *may* result in further exploration and a possible funding proposal to be developed by MSL and OPI.

On January 5, the Montana Memory Project Executive Committee recommended pursuing a partnership with the Montana History Foundation to fund a traveling Montana Memory Project exhibit and digitization center.

As stated above, on January 12 Evan Hammer and I met with Shawn Graham, Nancy Hall, OPBB Budget Analyst, and Stuart Fuller, ITSD Chief Technology Officer, to review options to develop and fund the State enterprise GIS architecture.

Kris Schmitz and I will meet with Pam Joehler, MSL's Legislative Fiscal Division representative on Wednesday, January 25. This is early for an initial meeting and will lay the groundwork for future legislative efforts.

Expand knowledge of the Montana library community and the needs of public libraries through in person visits and other outreach methods.

- **Discuss findings with the Commission and make recommendations for future collaboration with the library community.**

On December 19 Sarah McHugh and I met with Judy Hart and Nanette Gilbertson, MLA lobbyist, to discuss MLA's approach for developing its legislative agenda. As mentioned above, MLA will soon release a survey asking libraries to identify their top priorities for legislative funding.

On January 9 I attended the MLA Board meeting where the upcoming MLA conference was discussed along with efforts to encourage more MLA membership.

On January 23 I attended the Education and Local Government Interim Committee with Judy Hart and Nanette Gilbertson. We agreed to meet again once MLA had received responses from their survey regarding legislative priorities.

Spend significant time becoming more familiar with the program and needs of Statewide Library Resources.

I met with Sue Jackson on January 10 for an initial review of LSTA funding, program goals, planning and reporting.

I met with Sue Jackson on January 17 for an initial review of the SWIM program. We anticipate that, as scholarship recipients near their graduation dates we will receive more questions about qualifying professional positions.

On January 19 I met with Kris Schmitz for an orientation on the State Library budget. Because I was already so familiar with the Digital Library budget, the majority of our time was spent on the SLR, and in particular, the LSTA budget.

Additional meetings scheduled for January include:

- January 24th – Library Certification with Sue Jackson
- January 25th – State Aide Task Force
- January 26th – Statewide Library Consultants with Tracy Cook and Sarah McHugh
- January 31st - Talking Book Library Orientation with Christie Briggs.

Also, in way of an update to my work plan, Tracy Cook will offer a Library Law training session for select MSL staff on March 8.

Assist the Commission with the development of its strategic plan, including aligning the plan with the Montana State Library long range plan.

Further develop, articulate and pursue a vision for the Montana State Library.

My vision for the State Library is one in which we enable libraries to become community anchors and where the State Library is a community anchor for the patrons we serve. I think we can accomplish this vision through resource sharing in all forms and at local, state and regional levels. We must begin by further defining “resource sharing” and then making resource sharing the priority for programs and services of the State Library. My definition of resource sharing includes but is not limited to: an affordable, shared information discovery and management platform for all MT libraries; a courier service that facilitates the delivery of traditional library resources at a state or regional level where the economies of scale make sense; data development, electronic resources procurement and digitization of unique local materials that can then be shared, discovered and accessed online by all Montanans; minimum standards for connectivity that are met by all Montana libraries so that librarians have the technology resources they need to facilitate access; and training and consulting services that ensure that librarians and other library partners have the education and resources they need to take advantage of these opportunities. Further, this vision must be supported by communities that embrace lifelong learning and that view their libraries as the community centers where the information resources that support lifelong learning are readily available. Libraries become community centers when they make available the resources to meet their patrons’ needs.

The Commission and MSL management and staff should continue to further define and refine the concepts of resources sharing. With a definition in mind, policies, resources, programs, and services can be developed and prioritized to actively support this vision and this vision must be communicated to all stakeholders including the library community, other library partner communities, the Governor’s Office and the Legislature.

To further articulate and act on this vision I will:

- Review the IMLS strategic plan and share findings with the Commission in their February Commission meeting materials;
- Include a discussion of this vision during the review of the draft long-range plan at the February 8 Commission meeting and incorporate refinements of this vision in the long-range plan;

As stated above, I had the opportunity to share this vision with the members of the Education and Local Government Interim Committee of the Legislature on January 23. I believe I will be invited back with MLA representatives to the March committee meeting where I hope to lay out more specific goals that will put this vision into action.

Finally, MSL was accepted as a participant in the Parthenon Group strategic review of our LSTA evaluation and initiatives which is funded by the Gates Foundation. We are awaiting a timeline and further direction from the Group. We anticipate that the review will be completed by the end of March in time to inform the LSTA five-year planning process.