

State Librarian's Report June & July 2012

Prepared for the August 8, 2012 Commission meeting
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Goal One, Content: MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.

The FY2012 state publications digitization contract finished on schedule bringing the total number of publications digitized and available online to over 16,000. This represents 45% of the total legacy print collection to be digitized. LIS negotiated the FY2013 digitization contract for a minimum of \$25,000 worth of scanning with the option for additional scanning depending on available funds. LIS will resume shipping publications for digitization in August.

LIS rotated in 50 new Safari Tech online books. The Sam Suber, new metadata cataloger, wrote instructions for LIS staff to do minimum level cataloging for titles without MARC records.

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.

Nine new libraries will join MontanaLibrary2Go in the next phase bringing the total number of participating libraries to 72.

Goal Three, Training: MSL provides appropriate trainings and training resources so that the best use can be made of the resources offered.

The return of the MSL Summer Institute was welcomed by library directors. Over 30 participants came together at Carroll College to engage in projects and discussions regarding the future of libraries and the library's role in their local communities. Participants will continue to work on individual projects over the summer with the assistance of Institute facilitator Pat Wagner.

LIS sponsored four webinars on using ReferenceUSA, a business research tool. These webinars were free for Montana state agency employees and will be archived for future use.

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

Jennie Stapp, along with Commissioner Bartow, has been asked to serve on the steering committee for the Montana PBS LearningMedia. This online resource provides teachers with a wide variety of learning resources and informational content that is organized by grade level and core curriculum standards. This is a great opportunity to partner with MontanaPBS. MSL has much to offer to the program including expertise in digitization and information organization. Additionally, MSL is a resource to discover the great content available, and we have a significant amount of content to contribute.

As was reported at the June Commission meeting, the Attorney General finalized his opinion regarding local governing bodies' authority over library budgets. As expected, he found that, per MCA 7-6-4035, final authority lies with the governing bodies. The opinion did add that this authority does not extend to line item budget decisions as was requested in comments made by the State Library Commission. MSL staff drafted a frequently asked questions document that is available on the MSL website and that has been shared with public library directors about the impacts of the opinion. Staff continues to communicate with libraries and to seek legal guidance as questions arise about the interpretation of the opinion. We also plan to offer a webinar in August about the impact of the AG opinion and next steps. MSL did submit draft legislative language to the Governor's office that would have changed 7-6-4035 (MCA) to exclude library boards from the authority granted to governing bodies. However, when MSL received from Budget Director Dan Villa their Legislative Status Report indicating approved legislation, it was not included. The Montana Library Association (MLA) Board is looking at other legislative options but is proceeding very cautiously. There is no consensus among Montana libraries about the impact of the opinion which makes taking a legislative stand very difficult. MLA is also concerned that doing so would put local librarians at odds with local officials. Judy Hart, MLA Government affairs representative, and I will meet with Harold Blattie from the Montana Association of Counties in early August to see what alternative options we can jointly consider that might address our concerns without jeopardizing relationships with local officials. At a minimum, the State Library should work to educate both librarians and local officials about opportunities for inter-local agreements, special levies and districts that would offer a degree of protection for libraries. Further, it continues to be the role of MSL to help librarians and trustees demonstrate the value of libraries to their local communities thus justifying the return on investment.

The Ecology Program of the MTNHP, led by Linda Vance, was recently awarded a Certificate of Merit from NatureServe for development of its nationally recognized Wetland and Riparian Mapping program.

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

With the help of State Procurement the Montana Shared Catalog will soon sign a new contract with SirsiDynix to provide an integrated library system for the Montana Shared

Catalog libraries. As part of the RFP process that concluded in June, SirsiDynix agreed to include Enterprise, a new end-user interface. Staff will begin the implementation process for Enterprise which will take several months. The new contract also includes free use of Portfolio (a digital content management software similar to our CONTENTdm software), web services for mobile devices and Facebook apps, quarterly Authority Maintenance updates, reduced costs for adding new libraries, 0% inflation rate for the first year, and 3% or less each subsequent year, an additional API license at no cost and Platinum Customer Support Services.

Goal Six, 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 State Library congratulates Anita Scheetz on her reappointment to the State Library Commission and we would like to welcome new Commissioner from Billings, Jim Gransbery. Commissioner Gransbery is a retired journalist who served on the staff of the Billings Gazette for thirty years.

This year's Montana State Library Governor's Award for Excellence recipient is Cindy Phillips, Network Administrator. This award is a nomination from her peers. In part the nomination stated that Cindy is responsible for agency-wide information technology support, planning and purchasing. To this end, Cindy must master all the latest technologies that drive the information world. Most recently, Cindy moved the Library into the virtual server world, significantly reducing equipment and licensing costs to the Library. Cindy continually grows with the position and is a valuable staff person to every program at MSL and its partners and patrons.

Staffing updates:

It is a great pleasure to announce that the Statewide Projects Librarian position has been filled. Cara Orban will join MSL on September 10. Cara earned her MLS from Emporia State University in 2007. She spent the last couple of years serving as the Project Director for the Digital Library of Appalachia, a project of the Appalachian College Association. Her duties involved working with 27 institutions to create a shared, digital heritage resource. Cara's experience with this project and her understanding of the rewards and challenges of collaborative efforts are strengths she brings to this position. She is enthusiastic about taking on statewide library projects and excited about moving from Kansas to Montana

Evan Hammer has been hired as the new Digital Information Manager/Chief Information Officer. This position represents a slight reorganization from the previous Digital Library Director/Chief Information Officer. Evan will be responsible for grants and contract management that has traditionally been the responsibility of the NRIS manager and agency-wide information technology management including supervision of

IT staff. Additionally, Evan is tasked with having an agency-wide view of State Library data collections and information management needs to help MSL take a more holistic approach to information management and services.

With this transition, MSL has the opportunity to consider certain other organizational changes. Specifically, all of the Library's eight GIS analysts will report to State Geographic Information Coordinator, Stu Kirkpatrick, eliminating some duplication at that management level. We are also considering the possibility of creating lead GIS analyst positions that will relieve Stu of some of the supervisory responsibilities of supervising so many staff and, more importantly, will give those staff the opportunity to develop management skills and will help MSL to plan for future staff changes.

Claudio Bickel left the Talking Book Library to take a position at Carroll College. This Readers' Advisor position is currently posted for recruitment.

Grant Austin resigned his GIS Web Programmer position in June. This has been a challenging position for MSL to keep filled and the same is true for other state agencies with similar positions primarily due to salaries that cannot compete with the private sector. For this reason, MSL is currently considering other options to accomplish the responsibilities of this position.

LIS purchased a Network Access Storage (NAS) device with 15 terabyte capacity that will serve as a local alternate repository for the data in our web archive which is captured and preserved by Archive-It and the digitized versions of state publications maintained by the Internet Archive. Although LIS is very pleased with the level of support and security offered by the Internet Archive, it is important for LIS to have physical possession of its state publication digital assets and be positioned to designate either the hosted or local content as the alternate repository with the goal of perpetual, ready access.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program hired three new photointerpreter/ecologists, Jamul Hahn, Alexis Buchwald, and Clea Klagstad.

Over the past several months the State Library has welcomed several new members to the Network Advisory Council:

- Lee Miller was appointed by Richard Quillin as the Commissioner representative;
- Doralyn Rossman was appointed by Tamara Miller to replace Brian Rossman as the Montana State University representative;
- Susan Gregory, the new Director of the Bozeman Public Library replaced Bruce Newell as the Member at large;

- MaryKay Bullard, Branch Librarian from Colstrip, replaced retiring librarian, Renne Goss, as the medium-sized public library representative;
- Helen Windy Boy, Librarian from Stone Child College, replaced Joan Hantz as the tribal library representative;
- Kathy Mora, Director of the Great Falls Public Library, was reappointed to a second term as the large public library representative; and
- Staff is currently reviewing applications for the small public library representative to replace Debbie Kramer, Director from the Three Forks Library.

Staff would like to thank outgoing NAC members for their years of service to the State Library and the Montana Library Community. We look forward to working with our new NAC members.

Kris Schmitz, Central Services Manager and Accounting Technician, Carol Churchill, successfully closed out the FY2012 budget.

There were no bidders on the first posting of the Talking Book Library Patron Outreach Project RFP. Staff re-evaluated the time table for this project and made minor adjustments to some of the response criteria. The RFP was reposted on July 18th and responses are due August 16.

A July 31st date is projected for completion of the Keystone database restructure project. This project secures and cross-references National Library Service (NLS) subject headings with local subject headings for all new MARC records downloaded to the TBL catalog. This restructuring will help staff more efficiently complete MARC records for new materials, reducing staff time necessary for this task. It will create on-going consistency with NLS subject headings and will increase circulation.