MEMO

TO: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

FROM :   Cara Orban, Statewide Projects Librarian

DATE: November 5, 2012

RE: Suggested list of projects/purchases for remaining LSTA FY 12 monies

These are the suggestions for additional projects or purchases with remaining FY12 LSTA funding, as prioritized by MSL staff and the State Librarian, for consideration by the Network Advisory Council.

1. Downloadable E-Content Expansion Pilot: As the statewide contract with OverDrive draws near its renewal date in 2014, and with the ever-changing relationship between libraries and publishers inspiring alternative models of purchasing and providing access to e-content, the State Library is committed to proactively investigating all viable options in order to make informed decisions and to provide the best long-term solutions for Montana libraries and their patrons. Funding for the development of a pilot collection or collections that would complement our existing e-content will allow the State Library to explore both open source and proprietary models that show promise in leveraging better economic value for libraries as well as improved borrowing rights for patrons.

2. WorldBook Online: WorldBook is a provider of online encyclopedias and reference sources with an emphasis on resources for students and public library users. This statewide quote for access at all public and school libraries includes World Book Online for Kids (in English and Spanish – primarily for grades K-4), Info Finder (primarily for grades K-6), Early World of Learning (pre-K – grade 2), and the Reference Center (for grades 7 and up).

3. Summer Institute: After a three year hiatus, the State Library held a well-attended Summer Institute in Helena in June. The Summer Institute provides training and networking opportunities for Montana librarians. The continuation of the Institute will enable MSL to actively help library directors meet the new certification requirements, specifically library directors who are new to their positions.

4. Tablets for the Technology Petting Zoo: With the rise in popularity of tablets for downloading ebooks and audio, particularly via MontanaLibrary2Go, it is important for library staff statewide to understand how to use these devices so that they can better serve the public and make the very best use of our existing resources. The Technology Petting Zoo (TPZ) is a set of contemporary devices that MSL staff use to train and share with library staff statewide. The TPZ gives library staff firsthand experience in working with new technological devices. Patrons also benefit from having an opportunity to

evaluate the various devices and to ask questions in a non-commercial setting. The addition of four new tablets would help build a more comprehensive set of devices that staff may encounter when helping patrons with downloadable content.

5. <u>Portable speakers for group training (2 at $50 apiece):</u> Statewide trainers and consultants often need access to audio capability in order to demonstrate the full range of features available in our statewide suite of databases, such as audiovisual and text-to-speech functions. This funding would allow the State Library to purchase two small, portable speakers that MSL staff could share for use at in-person workshops and tutorials statewide.

II. Additional suggestions for remaining FY12 LSTA include statewide subscriptions to the following databases or online services. Subscriptions purchased with LSTA allow library staff the opportunity to evaluate new sources of content for a limited period of time and gives them a broader context for determining how to best spend their content budget in the long term.

<u>Gale Teaching and Educational Research Center (TERC) Database:</u> TERC was a popular database in the Gale statewide database contract that ended in August 2011. Although there is some test prep help in HomeworkMT, it does not have the depth or scope of TERC. The quote given is for statewide access. http://www.gale.cengage.com/TERC/

<u>Mango Languages:</u> Mango Languages offers over interactive, online tools for 30 foreign and ESL languages. This quote given is for access by public libraries.
http://www.mangolanguages.com/libraries/

<u>Reference USA:</u> ReferenceUSA is a provider of business and consumer research. This suite of databases helps users locate phone numbers and addresses, create marketing plans, conduct competitive analysis, and raise funds. The quote includes statewide public and academic libraries. Eight databases are quoted in the price including the U.S. and Canadian White and Yellow Pages. http://www.referenceusa.com/Home/Home