

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) September 19, 2012 – November 23 2012

Prepared for the December 12, 2012, Commission meeting by
Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL
staff: Briggs, Gunderson, Landry, Meier, Stanton, Harris and 90 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.*

Recording production decreased due to several Narrators being on Hiatus. The following recording projects were completed during this reporting period:

1 magazine issue of- **Montana Outdoors**.

1 book – **Don't Wake Me While I'm Driving** by Margaret Scherf. 183 pages.

A total of 1,426 book pages were recorded in the MTBL Recording Program.

The ***“first born digital”*** Montana Book- MDB02000 was completed ahead of time. ***“Hand Raised: the Barns of Montana”*** by Chere Jiusto and Christine W. Brown was the book donated to MTBL by the Montana Historical Society and chosen to be the first local digital Montana book. Reader was Mike Sullivan. MTBL is working with Sara Groves to promote the new local digital format.

A total of 700 new digital titles were both received at MTBL and made available on the MTBL-BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) website for patrons. New issues of 50 monthly magazines are made available on BARD. A total of 185 Montana Braille Twin Vision children's titles are now available at MTBL.

National Library Service (NLS) is planning a late November launch of upgrades to the BARD website to include: Braille books, magazines, and music scores will be added; special collection materials, music books & scores and foreign-language books produced abroad; expanded links added to each title which will list additional titles by an author, narrator, or within the same subject category; links added to additional books in the same series; a patron wish list; and previous patron download display. More new updates will be implemented throughout 2013.

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.*

During this reporting period:

Sixty-seven new patrons were registered for MTBL services; 32 interlibrary loans were processed for both Montana and out of state patrons by Sandra Stanton.

A total of 41,101 audio books and materials were circulated via USPS by Carolyn Meier and volunteers. An additional 5,284 BARD books and magazines were downloaded by patrons and institutions between September and October.

Over 12,000 more cassette book copies were processed for recycling by Carolyn Meier and volunteers.

Goal Three – Training: *MSL provides libraries, agencies, its partners and Montanans with appropriate trainings and training resources so that they can make the best use of the resources offered.*

The October “Book-Break” Webinar (available to nationwide Talking Book Library Readers’ Advisors and staff) featured “Where is the Love? Romance Beyond Romance”, and was presented by Katie Dunneback, Adult Selection Librarian for the NLS Collection Development section.

One-on-one BARD training of patrons was provided to 8 new BARD patrons during this reporting period.

Training of teachers and staff at Montana School for the Deaf (MSDB) and the Blind was conducted in September by Christie Briggs on how to utilize BARD, train students to use BARD, and troubleshoot BARD and digital machine issues.

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

In September, MTBL materials were presented to attendees of the DPHHS Community Service Bureau Conference at the Red Lion, Helena.

In September, Christie Briggs consulted with the Supervisor of the Blind department of MSDB to develop student internet policies, to increase high speed internet to the blind department, and offer future training ideas for the MSDB librarian and staff.

In October, presentation was given on MTBL services to 35 residents of The Springs Senior and Memory Care Living facility in Missoula by Christie Briggs. Additional consultation was offered to the Life Enhancement Coordinator to evaluate staff and facility internet and e-mail capabilities for BARD.

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

In November, a presentation of “What’s New at MTBL” was presented by Christie Briggs and Sandy Stanton at the Montana Association for the Blind’s Annual Convention in Missoula.

Two new volunteers signed up with MTBL and are being trained by Diane Gunderson: Wei Li (Recording Program Reviewer) and Yan Xu (Circulation).

During this time period, Diane Gunderson partnered with Helena Industries to train one individual to assist the machine lending agent.

Supervisor and Volunteer Coordinator met with the director and student volunteers of the Carroll College's Hunthausen Foundation in October to discuss MTBL volunteer opportunities for college students as well as the community at large.

Collaborated with Ft. Harrison VA Center and participated in the Low Vision Symposium held at Ft. Harrison to offer MTBL services to Montana Veterans.

MTBL Taskforce collaborated with Wendt, Inc. in October to give an overview of MTBL services and discuss timelines for and development of the 2013 Patron Outreach Project.

Goal Six – 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.*

Development of the MTBL section of the Legislative Snapshot, FY12 MSL Annual report and the FY11-LSTA Annual report revealed MTBL growth in patronage and circulation of new digital content.

Digital Duplication on Demand has depleted MTBL's initial blank digital cartridges and containers. A recent small purchase of 600 new blank cartridges and containers is anticipated to last through February, 2013, before having to purchase more. MTBL is in the process of evaluating available resources in order to purchase additional large quantities of digital blank cartridges and containers.

All staff positions in the Montana Talking Book Library have been filled since September. On October 11, MTBL staff hosted the **2012 MSL Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**, under the direction of Diane Gunderson, Coordinator of Volunteers, in recognizing our 90 volunteers. Held at the SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Social Center in East Helena, this year's theme was "**Volunteers are the Keys to Paradise**" included colorful table decorations of large seashells with exotic flowers donated to MTBL. **Key Note Speaker** was Audrey Hood, a patron of the MTBL since 2007. Audrey shared her experience with MTBL services and Montana airbase libraries. She received a standing ovation.

Each volunteer was presented with gifts and awards to match the theme. Recognition for devoted volunteer service to MTBL included: **Youth volunteers**: Aariah, Dominic, and Jordan Danzer, Derek and Olivia Martinez, and Alexis, CJ, Michael, and Ricky Meier. **Special Appreciation Award**: Mary Biskupiak. **Telecom Pioneers and Machine Repair Volunteers**: Frank and Chuck Flynn, Tom Tompkins, Gloria Purcell, and Jim Brown. **Recording Team of the Year Award**: Del Lonnquist (Reader), Penny Herbert (Monitor) and Al Tompkins (Reviewer). **Longevity Awards**: 5 years: Joyce Beckes, Laura Brown, Gladdie Inman, Rose McGee and Jim Quinn; 10 years: Sharon Koch, Lorna McMurray, Ruth Straley, Mike Sullivan and Tom Tompkins; 15 years: Bonnie Anderson, Dorothy Carpenter, Jim Daily, Brittany Eldredge and Bob Vanisko; 30 years: Donna Anders.

A cake (decorated according to the theme) was provided for the 4th year in a row by The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). There were 68 total participants. Guests included the greatest number of Commissioners ever in attendance: Richard Quillin, MSL Commission Chair; Anita Scheetz, MSL Commissioner and Library Director, Fort Peck Tribal Library; and Colet Bartow, MSL Commissioner and Library Media Curriculum Specialist with the Office of Public Instruction. Other invited guests included: Micky Brown, RSVP Program Manager at Rocky Mountain Development Council, Catherine McKillips, Job Development Coordinator for the Montana Career Development Services a Division of Helena Industries and Beverly Berg, Program Administrator of the Blind and Low Vision Services.