

## Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) January 26, 2013 – March 29, 2013

Prepared for the April 17, 2013, Commission meeting by  
Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL  
staff: Briggs, Gunderson, Landry, Meier, Stanton, Harris and 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.*

- Preparations were made for the Open House on March 20<sup>th</sup> to launch of the first-born digital book **Hand Raised: The Barns of Montana** by Chere Juisto and Christine Brown.
- New digital titles added to MTBL collection: 524 with 1,723 copies. Total MTBL-BARD digital book titles: 33,765; 11,534 Braille titles; 98 magazines in digital audio and Braille; 78 foreign digital titles.
- **The new NLS Digital Magazine service launched March 28<sup>th</sup>** for Montana patrons who are signed up for free magazine subscriptions through MTBL.
- 11,013 cassette book titles were listed in Xess in March to make more room for digital books.
- Great strides are being made in developing the MTBL Learning Portal, main webpages using Word Press, and Facebook account, with a key focus on accessibility by MTBL patrons.

**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.*

- The Patron Outreach Project advertising activities for first quarter, 2013, resulted in 118 new patrons added; an increase of 7% over the previous quarter.
- Circulated materials (Jan-Mar) - USPS: 29,252; Downloaded MTBL-BARD materials (Jan. & Feb.): 3,212. Out of 220 total MTBL-BARD patrons and institutions, 91 in Jan. and 98 in Feb. downloaded at least one item from BARD (either in audio or Braille).
- Interlibrary loans for the first quarter, 2013, totaled 21 Montana titles loaned to out of state patrons and 219 BARD digital books loaned to Montana patrons not on BARD.

**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.*

- MTBL-BARD training was provided to 6 new BARD patrons and 2 Institutions in Feb. & Mar.

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

- Outreach Presentations were conducted for:

Three Foster Grandparent groups in Helena, Butte and Bozeman on February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> respectively, to over 76 individuals.

The Cascade County Extension Service Health Fair in Great Falls on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 156 contacts made and 10 applications given out.

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

- New Volunteers: Three signed up with MTBL in March: JoLynn Russell (Circulation), Nikki Baril (Circulation), Terrie Kenney (Recording Program).

- Patron Outreach Project Progress:

-Printing of the MTBL brochure was completed, and statewide distribution began, in March.

-The MTBL Open House event, held on March 20<sup>th</sup> was a great success. There were nearly 200 attendees, including representatives from the local TV, radio and newspaper.

-Seven Montana authors (Chere Juisto, Lenore McKelvey Puhek, Flora Wong, Jim Sargent, Sharron Ensign, and Skip Halmes) participated in the event.

-Tours of the MTBL recording booth and collection were conducted and well received.

- Our sponsors were the Bozeman, Butte-Silver Bow, Great Falls and Helena Chapters of the Montana Association for the Blind (MAB), in addition to the MAB Summer Orientation Program and Gerald Hutch, an individual donor. The sponsors covered the catering costs provided by Park Avenue Bakery, which gained positive compliments from attendees.

-Several individuals showed interest in becoming volunteers and several filled out MTBL applications for patron services.

-Established patrons and their families came from as far away as Colstrip to meet their Readers' Advisers, tour the facility, and meet the authors.

-Photos of the event will be posted on the MTBL website and Facebook page the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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.*

MTBL's in-depth portion of the Montana's LSTA State Program Report for the 2011 grant award was completed and the entire report for MSL was submitted to IMLS.

- An Accessibility Camp Missoula was held on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Missoula. One MTBL staff member attended, gained knowledge on accessibility enhancements for Word Press software, new accessible devices, software and other accoutrements now available to the blind and others with disabilities and shared this information with all MTBL staff.
- An accessibility in-service on the MSL accessible opac was conducted by Jennifer Birnel, BTOP trainer on March 27<sup>th</sup>. All MTBL staff attended.