

## State Librarian's Report June & July 2013

Prepared for the August 14, 2013 Commission meeting  
by Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

**Goal One, Content:** MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.

With additional funds from the 2013 legislative session, Library Information Services expanded their contract with the Internet Archive to continue our long-running effort to digitize the State Publications Collection.

**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.

As part of the econtent pilot, funded with Library Services Technology Act dollars, MSL contracted with web developer Jon Nering to build a front end interface that will serve as the primary access point for new econtent available through our new Adobe Content Server. This new system will give MSL and Montana libraries the ability to acquire and provide access to econtent that we manage locally. MSL hopes to have a test system online by the end of September.

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

MSL once again hosted a very successful Summer Institute attended by 14 Montana librarians. The group 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 Maureen Sullivan. Maureen is the immediate past president of the American Library Association. Projects are to focus on how libraries can address specific needs within their local communities.

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

Libraries across the country are being charged with helping their patrons connect to information about health insurance changes under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The American Library Association will partner with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies to distribute programming and training information. In the meantime, MSL staff has contacted the State Auditor's office to arrange for training for Montana

librarians on local ACA issues. Additionally, staff is updating the Learning Portal to include relevant information and links to trainings. We are also encouraging local libraries to reach out to community health networks in their areas to learn more about how to partner in local opportunities.

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

In June, MSL staff hosted a tour for Governor Bullock and Education Policy Advisor, Shannon O'Brien. The Governor spent more than an hour visiting with staff about the responsibilities and duties of the State Library. I believe the Governor was very impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm of our staff. It was the first time in recent memory that a Governor visited the State Library.

I was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the State Information Technology Board. This board is co-chaired by the Director of the Department of Administration and the State Chief Information Technology Office. Members include agency directors, staff of the Governor's Office and Legislative Services, Legislators, and local government representatives. It is an honor to be appointed to the board and I look forward to representing the interests of the communities we serve.

On July 16 Sara Groves and I attended the Board of Education meeting chaired by Governor Bullock. There he laid out his priorities for the state which included early literacy and economic development. In her overview, Education Policy Advisor, Shannon O'Brien acknowledged the good work done by MSL and Montana libraries to support early literacy efforts in Montana families.

**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.

This year's Montana State Library Governor's Award for Excellence will go to the Talking Book Library Team. This award is a nomination from their peers. In part the nomination stated that "technology advancements change how the Montana Talking Book Library provides audio and Braille materials to Montanans with visual, physical or reading limitations. This team communicates the benefits of these changes and trains patrons to use new resources in a patient and courteous manner. They meet the needs of patrons who are not able to adjust readily to technology changes and have been able to bring each patron into the digital age with respect and compassion."

The State Library Ready 2 Read Program was awarded \$5000 from the proceeds of the Governor's inaugural ball. The Governor stated that he is proud of the work MSL is

doing to support early literacy and that he hopes the funds will help continue our effort. The funds were deposited into the MSL Trust.

At the end of June the State Library signed our fourth biennial contract with the University of Montana for operation of the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP). The funding for the contract remained unchanged from the previous biennium. Language was added to the contract to give MSL a greater role in future hiring of the Lead Program Manager. Changes were also made to align IT management and cost allocation with changes implemented by the State Information Technology Services Division. The Scope of Work for the contract is submitted to the Commission as the MTNHP work plan.

Staffing updates:

We're thrilled to have hired Scott Story as our new Database Administrator. Scott comes to us from Fish, Wildlife and Parks where he worked closely with staff of MTNHP and Geographic Information Services. We welcome both his technical skills as well as his understanding of the information we manage and the communities we serve.

We're also very pleased to be able to keep on Jennifer Birnel following the conclusion of the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program grant. Jennifer was recently hired as the Director of the Montana Memory Project. She is quickly coming up to speed on the technology and information resources and is making plans for the future of the program.

Over the past couple of months the State Library appointed three new Network Advisory Council members:

- Beth Chestnut from Thompson Falls was reappointed for another three-year term as the small school libraries representative;
- Rachel Helbing from the Kalispell Regional Medical Center Medical Library was appointed as the special libraries representative; and,
- Laura Wight from the Great Falls College, MSU, Weaver Library was appointed as the small academic/community college libraries representative.

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