

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)
May 17, 2013 – September 20, 2013

Prepared for the October 9, 2013, 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.*

- NEW Montana Digital Book (MDB) titles – Completed and out to patrons: *The Land of Empty Houses* by John L. Moore; *A Life In Time-A woman's Journey from Orphanage to Peace Corps* by Kaye Stone; and *Murder Makes me Nervous* by Margaret Scherf.
- NEW MDB's currently in Review process: *Bushwack* by Richard S. Wheeler; *Goodbye Wives and Daughters* by Susan Kushner Resnick; *600 Hours of Edward* by Craig Lancaster; *Photographs From Eaden: A Montana Story* by Brad Bergum; *More Montana Moments* by Ellen Baumler; *Montana Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff* by Ednor Therriault; *Beneath the Blue Mountain* by Richard S. Wheeler; *Goosetown in Their Own Words, 1900-1945: An Oral History of Anaconda's Ethnic, Working-Class Neighborhood* by Alice Finnegan; *This is Not the Ivy League: A Memoir* by Mary Clearman Blew; and *Ride the Jawbone* by Jim Moore.
- The Digitization of retrospective Montana Cassette Books began July 1st. To date, a total of 39 have been completed and out to patrons.
- Karen Keninger, Executive Director of the National Library Service (NLS), invited MTBL's Recording Program to participate in a pre-pilot project for posting local titles on BARD. The first title was sent to the NLS Quality Control Officer for evaluation.

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 (POP) Progress: Preparation of Sponsorship Packets by Wendt, Inc. for development of statewide Outreach Sponsors; statewide TV and radio ads continue to play. ***There has been a 6.3% increase in newly registered patrons between Sept. 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013 compared to the previous time period. This is a direct reflection of the efforts accomplished by the Patron Outreach Project (POP).**
- Circulation: (Jun-Aug) - **USPS: 32,742**; Downloaded (**BARD**): (May-Aug) – **6,416**. Total BARD patrons and institutions: 234.

- Interlibrary loans: 9 Montana titles to out of state patrons; 163 BARD digital books loaned to non-BARD Montana patrons.
- New Patrons: (May- Aug): 149.
- The BARDMobile app has been sent to the Apple app Store by NLS. It is expected to launch by the end of September, allowing patrons direct access to BARD from their ipad, ipod and iphone devices. MTBL and some Montana patrons have been reviewing the app at the request of NLS.

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 2 new BARD patrons in June & July.
- MTBL Staff attended in-house training on new low vision demonstration equipment from Leading Edge Vision representative Aileen Aiken.
- MTBL staff attended the first NLS Webinar on the upcoming BARDMobile app on Sept. 17th.

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

- Outreach Presentations Completed:

May 29- Senior Companion Program- Great Falls;

May 31- Senior Companion Program & Hunter's Point residents, Helena

June 18- MT Health Care Association's annual workshop for MT Activity Directors, Helena

June 20- Montana Association f/t Blind's Summer Orientation Program, Helena

June 21- Senior Companion Program, Butte

July 1-7- Aging Horizons program aired the MTBL 30" segment on community TV

Aug 9- The Leila Proctor Chapter of MAB, Kalispell

Aug 23- Low Vision Fair, Great Falls

Sept. 3- Aspen Grove/Volunteers of America & Rimrock Chapter of MAB, Billings

Sept. 9- White Cane Chapter of MAB, Lewistown

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

- Collaborated with MonTech, Missoula and Freedom Scientific to present a two day seminar at Helena College on accessible software and hardware for individuals with low vision and blindness.

- Collaborated with Perkins School for the Blind to offer Montanans who are legally deaf and blind technology benefits through the iCanConnect program. One referral has been made thus far.
- Collaborated with two independent Orientation and Mobility Counselors to plan monthly demonstrations of various devices at MTBL.
- Collaborated with one vendor and one organization to develop a rotating list of demonstration devices to be placed in MTBL to benefit patrons.
- MTBL partnered with Experience Works to train two individuals in various support services of the Library.
- MTBL partnered with Career Training Institute (CTI) to train an individual in various support services of the Library.
- June – Sept.: Volunteers who signed up at MSL – Peter & Mike Lashinski (youth volunteers, circulation, clerical); Chari Nelson (rejoined the MTBL Recording Program as a Narrator after a few years of hiatus); Dylan Brown (youth volunteer, circulation), Betty Kretzmann (patron phone calls), Carole Solomon (patron calls) and Jane Amdahl (circulation).

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.*

- A doorbell has been installed in the mailroom to alert MTBL staff when mail arrives. This has increased efficiency due to the varied time changes in mail and book deliveries.
- June-August: National Library Service (NLS) Open Forum Conference call.
- Sept. 12th & 13th- Pamela Davenport, NLS Regional Library Network consultant of Western states, visited MTBL and the Machine Lending Agency (MLA) operations. Comparisons were made against the new ALA Standards. A final report is expected within 4 months.