Memo
To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council
From: Ken Adams, Montana Shared Catalog Director
Date: March 3, 2014
Re: Montana Shared Catalog Update

1. LSTA 2013 funds of $16,344 authorized for MSC Phase XV new libraries to cover vendor start-up costs, has been used for adding Fort Peck Tribal Library, Judith Basin County Free Library and Hobson Community Library to the MSC. The final data extractions, mapping, loads, training and go-live were completed during the week of Nov 12, 2013 with go-live on Nov 15.   Invoices from the vendors have been received and paid.   The Phase XVI application period began on Jan 7 with a deadline of Feb 28, 2014. As of this writing, 1 library (Richey School) has applied to join. Potential applicants were made aware that if applying to join this year and if accepted, they wouldn't be able to begin using the system until next year due to the current reorganization project (see para. 2). Cost estimates were prepared for 12 others (mostly schools).   LSTA 2012 funds that were used to add the George McCone County Memorial Library (MSC Phase XIV) came to fruition when the library, after manually entering their catalog records and several false starts due to inclement weather, finally went live on the MSC system on Jan 13, 2014.

2. Following up on tasking from the MSC membership and the MSC Executive Board, MSC staff completed planning and implementing the reorganization of MSC operations (circulation policies, system configuration and reports). After several instructional webinars in December, 2014, the project began on Jan 6 with the first round of item types, locations and circ policy review. Round 1 completed in early February and we are now in Round 2. The MSC sharing groups (Partners, 4Rivers and BridgerNet) have agreed to use a simplified set of circulation policies that will be put in place for all three. A web page was created on the MSL web site to provide information, documentation and links to training materials and the project timeline and calendar. The web page can be viewed here: http://libraries.montanastatelibrary.org/statewide-projects/montana-shared-catalog/reorganization. The goal of the project is to improve system efficiency, reduce operational costs and realign the MSC back to the original purpose of resource sharing and library development rather than what it has mostly evolved into as simply a shared automated library system.

3. System Update: Enterprise/Portfolio hosted software upgraded to version 4.3-GA5.1 on Jan 27th. Symphony software upgrade to version 3.4.1.4 on Feb 17th.   A pilot project for Enterprise began on Feb 24th that includes 12 libraries (based on type and size) that will test functionality and provide feedback to help us prepare the product for general use within the next 6 months. The first phase of libraries that will be using the Shoutbomb SMS text messaging software can start using the service on Feb 27th. Next generation products from the vendor for mobile circulation, mobile apps, and statistical analysis appear to finally be on the horizon. Mobile Circulation and Analytics Station should become available by the end of April.