

State Librarian's Report February & March 2014

Prepared for the April 9, 2014 Commission meeting
by Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

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

The State Library staff hosted the Montana Library Association's Offline 2014 conference. Keynote speaker for the event was OCLC Vice President and Chief Strategist, Lorcan Dempsey. He challenged attendees to think about library services in three key areas, right-scaled infrastructure, innovation and engagement. Thinking about these three types of services poses interesting and challenging questions for the services of the State Library. Much of our support of libraries is focused on infrastructure. Examples include the Montana Shared Catalog, Statewide Databases, MontanaLibrary2Go, and MT.GOV Connect. Providing this infrastructure, including hardware, software, staffing, contract management, etc., at a statewide scale, means that most libraries do not have to worry about maintaining this kind of infrastructure on their own. The State Library also considers how we might further scale this kind of infrastructure to a regional and/or national level to gain further economies of scale. An example is our on-going evaluation of OCLC's web scale management platform.

The State Library also promotes services that are innovative and that help libraries engage in their communities. Examples include the Ready 2 Read program, the new community outreach and maker space initiatives, Talking Book Library services, etc. We need to continue to challenge ourselves to think about what role the State Library can and should play to help libraries to be more innovative and engaging. We will continue to explore these questions in an overview of Offline during the April Commission meeting and during the Conversations with the Commission at MLA.

On March 13th, I chaired a meeting of the Montana Land Information Advisory Council. An important focus of discussion for the council is whether or not to create a new GIS strategic plan for Montana. The most recent plan expired in 2010. Under MSL leadership, the Council agreed to draft a framework for a strategic vision for GIS that includes important needs and trends impacting the GIS community in Montana. The

vision will include input from the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP), the State GIS Community of Interest and the Montana Association of Counties. This framework will inform other plans drafted for the GIS community including the Montana Land Plan, the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure Work Plan and the MAGIP Board strategic plan. We look forward to sharing this strategic vision with the Commission at the June meeting.

Montana State Library staff continues to be regularly involved with spring federation meetings. They are the primary source of continuing education offered during these meetings and the State Library reports are always well received. I am very proud of our staff, and particularly the Consultants, for their work to support the federations and member libraries. These staff receive numerous, well-deserved, accolades from meeting attendees. At these meetings I am regularly reminded of the importance of the consulting program to the success of libraries around the state.

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.

The State Library earned a clean audit from the Legislative Audit Division for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 2013. I was also congratulated by the chair of the Legislative Audit Committee, Rep. Brodehl, on a nice audit hearing. That audit is available online at: <http://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/Audit/Report/13-23.pdf>.

Managers are currently evaluating budget priorities that will be carried forward during the executive planning process. Priorities will also need to be aligned with the Governor's instructions to executive branch agencies regarding how to develop our EPP priorities. If instructions are available prior to the April Commission meeting, we will share a prioritized list of EPP requests with the Commission for action at that meeting. If instructions are not available, EPP priorities will be shared as information only for discussion purposes and action will be required at a later meeting.