Montana State Library

Network Advisory Council

FY 2014 Work Plan

July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

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Description of the Council

The Network Advisory Council (NAC) represents the interests of all types of Montana libraries and maintains the perspective of statewide geographical balance as it explores technology

resources, assists with the official procurement process of those resources, reviews and evaluates the feasibility, design, and outcomes of statewide library projects; assists with statewide planning, and advises the State Librarian. NAC members are appointed by, and serve at the direction of, the State Librarian.

NAC appointees must collectively represent the interest of all types of Montana libraries and provide a statewide perspective. Knowledge of library leadership and collaboration, library operations, library technology, information access issues, and awareness of the information needs of Montana citizens are considered important qualifications for NAC membership.

Mission Statement

Explore and evaluate available and anticipated information technology resources and communicate with and advise the Montana State Library and the Montana library community on the provision of quality information resources which will enrich the lives of the citizens they serve.

Ongoing Tasks

- Research and review technology-based resources and services which may potentially benefit Montana libraries and citizens and make recommendations to MSL staff on which resources and services to explore
- Assist MSL to prepare library technology and information resources Request for Proposal (RFP) documents as part of the official state procurement process
- Serve on RFP evaluation committees as part of the official state procurement process
- Make recommendations to the State Librarian on the purchase, design, implementation, and evaluation of statewide products, projects and services that will benefit Montana libraries and the citizens they serve
- Make recommendations to the State Librarian on the annual Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) budget for statewide projects and services
- Contribute to the strategic and long range planning efforts of MSL
- Advise MSL on other matters that the State Librarian determines will benefit from the statewide and multi-type library perspective offered by the NAC membership
- Communicate the goals and objectives of the NAC and MSL to librarians around the state; act as an educational resource for librarians in the area of library technologies, seek feedback from library colleagues on matters within the purview of the NAC and share that feedback with the State Librarian; serve as an official channel for communication on specific matters as requested by the State Librarian.

GOAL ONE: Define the evaluation criteria for statewide pilots, projects and programs

NAC Work Objectives:

- Determine criteria generally for each level (pilots, projects, programs)
- Determine criteria specific to each effort
- Document the progress of each effort (MSL staff)
- Effectively evaluate each pilot, project and program

This goal has been met to some degree through the NAC document defining pilots, projects and programs. The project updates shared regularly by MSL staff serve to document the progress of LSTA funded efforts. Evaluation generally has been accomplished through discussions together and with MSL staff assigned to projects, statistical reports and interactions with librarians. Work in FY15 will include determining more specific criteria for each effort and more effective evaluation methods.

GOAL TWO: Determine whether to support databases outside the core subscriptions (continued from FY13 Workplan)

> NAC Work Objectives:

- Investigate the extent to which other states are assigning LSTA to statewide databases
- Define criteria for LSTA support of databases outside of the core subscriptions
- Define timelines for LSTA support of databases
- Plan for the next legislative session
- Document the usage and effectiveness of the statewide subscriptions (MSL staff and NAC)

The last objective has been accomplished through discussions and analysis of usage statistics. Work on the remaining objectives will be part of an ongoing evaluation process in FY15. Focus groups being planned for FY15 and the possibility of reduced funding for the core subscriptions will inform this work.

GOAL THREE: Make significant strides to create a truly statewide Discovery and Delivery architecture, through collaboration and conversation between partners.

> NAC Work Objectives:

- Engage in statewide meetings between NAC, MSL, UM, OMNI

This goal has not been met, though there have been other discussions involving MSL staff and staff from UM and OMNI about both discovery and delivery architectures. Upcoming possibilities for the courier will continue to include both UM and OMNI partnerships. As the two large academic institutions migrate to their new discovery system, discussions may take a different approach.

GOAL FOUR: Continue to expand and develop the Montana Memory Project

> NAC Work Objectives:

- Analyze return on investment of LSTA monies invested in the Montana Memory Project, particularly training and technical support

- Examine alternatives to the ContentDM product through an RFI and a possible RFP
- Assist in evaluating a new MMP website
- Assist in encouraging libraries to contribute materials by local authors
- Assist in encouraging cooperative collection development by contributing institutions

The new MMP Advisory Council has taken on some of these tasks. The NAC will participate in evaluating responses to an RFI and potential RFP in FY2015. The NAC will also continue to analyze return on investment of LSTA monies invested in this project, as part of this goal and goal one.

GOAL FIVE: Enhance and develop better communication between MSL, NAC and Libraries

<u>NAC Work Objectives:</u>

- Disseminate information
- Provide orientation sessions to new members
- Review job description on NAC web page
- Explain advisory role of NAC
- Make use of existing MSL communication tools to provide outreach
- Make use of an MSL app that is provided for use by the NAC
- Be where the people are
- Encourage members to attend Offline 2014

These objectives have increasingly been met as Council members utilize customized email lists and in person opportunities to communicate with the librarians they represent. Offline 2014 discussions about what's next for Montana libraries were shared with the Council and at least one Council member attended the conference and facilitated discussions at the final plenary. Orientation sessions were held for 2 new members. An MSL app has not been developed and is a priority in FY15.

GOAL SIX: NAC members attend professional development conferences or other continuing education opportunities

<u>NAC Work Objectives:</u>

- Create a calendar of conference opportunities (MSL)
- Investigate the idea of visiting Orbis Cascade or Minitex libraries
- Investigate the idea of visiting OCLC campus and staff connected with Montana projects

NAC members attended the WebWise Conference in February and the National Conference on Computers in Education in March, funded by FY13 LSTA. Continued professional development and educational opportunities, particularly in the areas of technology trends and consortia, remain important for NAC members.