

Memo

**To:** Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

**From:** Jo Flick, Continuing Education Coordinator

**Date:** October 30, 2014

**Re:** Statewide Training Update

**Trustee Training:** Jim Nys of Personnel Plus! in Helena conducted 3 on-site training events for trustees and library directors in Kalispell, Butte, and Billings May-July along with a webinar series covering the same material in May-June. Jim shared demographic data revealing that nearly ½ of all Montana librarians are entering retirement age. He suggested a strategy for identifying potential staff for advancement and detailed best practices for hiring new senior management staff and maintaining continuity of operations at the library.

**Fall Workshops 2014** 160 persons attended the Fall Workshops September 28-29 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena. This was a decline from 2013, but on par with attendance in 2012. It was not possible to secure a Friday-Saturday date and we did not have a hot-button topic like the ACA this year. The Workshops were coordinated with the Fall membership meeting of the MSC. Feedback from attendees was very positive.

**Learning Portal** – The Learning Portal has transitioned from WordPress to DotNetNuke – with some loss of functionality that the technical staff continues to research and hopes to address. You can no longer search and find content that is tagged by CE Category nor MSL program to reveal a dynamic page with lists of links. We're continuing to work to overcome these technical problems or develop sustainable work-around options to facilitate access to learning resources.

**PNLA** was held at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena, August 13-15. Presentations on the Montana Memory Project and the State Library Technology Petting Zoo kits were included in this year's conference.

**DiscoverIt! & Database training** A database-a-week training series held in June-July was very well received. The approach in this training focused on the content in individual databases. We continue with basic training on searching using DiscoverIt! (EBSCO EDS) almost every month, but this new emphasis on content will continue with a series planned for Winter 2015.