

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Bill Cochran, Billings Public Library Director, LD Study Task Force Chair

Date: December 1, 2015

Re: **Draft Library Development Study Task Force recommendations**

The Library Development Study Task Force is pleased to share with the State Library Commission our draft recommendations. The recommendations were based in large part on feedback gathered from the Montana library community through an online survey and a series of eight listening sessions held statewide. The complete data compiled from these information gathering efforts can be found online at: http://mslapps.mt.gov/About_the_Library/Commission_Councils/Library_Development_Study_Task_Force/ldstf_MeetingMaterials.aspx. The Task Force met on November 19th in a daylong meeting to draft the following recommendations that we believe will help focus and guide library development services from the State Library to libraries across Montana.

The recommendations begin with a vision for Montana libraries: *Libraries are leaders in creating thriving communities*. The recommendations then identify those elements that libraries need in order to successfully achieve this vision. These needs are clearly articulated on subsequent pages. The needs are designed to serve as outcomes for which library development programs and services can be prioritized and benchmarked to address.

Finally, the Task Force reviewed and made recommendations with regard to whether or not the State Library should increase, continue, or decrease investment in current library development programs and services.

The Task Force welcomes feedback from the State Library Commission that can be used to further refine these recommendations ahead of the February Commission meeting.