

Memo

To: Montana State Library Network Advisory Council

From: Cara Orban, Statewide Projects Librarian

Date: May 4, 2016

Re: Statewide Projects Update

OCLC FY16 Group Services

MontanaLibrary2Go

Following the fall 2015 Request for Information process, Statewide Projects Librarian Cara Orban arranged trials for Baker & Taylor Axis 360 and for Recorded Books OneClickDigital for the MontanaLibrary2Go Executive Committee in January. The Executive Committee met on February 26 and discussed the RFI responses and product trials. The consensus was that the competing services are similar to OverDrive, but do not offer some formats and device compatibility that the consortium currently enjoys with OverDrive. Lacking any perceived superior value in competing services, the committee agreed that the cost (in staff time and in content potentially lost through seeking publisher permissions) of moving to another service would not be justifiable at this time.

Orban and Executive Committee chair Susie McIntyre worked together to form three different cost sharing scenarios to discuss at the membership meeting. All of these options were goal-oriented, with a specific figure in mind in order to meet the coming fiscal year contract obligations as well as to plan for the future. The committee ultimately recommended the customary 5% increase to the membership, but advised the membership that changes to the cost formula would be forthcoming for FY18 in order to develop a more proactive plan for sustaining the content budget and exploring other possibilities for expanding shared access to e-content. The Executive Committee will work on this proposal along with a plan listing desired outcomes over the summer and share this information with the membership in the fall.

Orban also organized a webinar for school libraries on January 28 to review vendor options for school consortia that were presented in the Fall, 2015 Request for Information responses. Currently MSL's agreement with OverDrive (the vendor for MontanaLibrary2Go) does not allow for school library participation. However, there are several MSC school libraries that have individual contracts either with OverDrive or through Follet Bookshelf, etc. for downloadable e-content, and their MSC bibliographic records, with connecting URL's, are maintained by MSC staff. Should an e content school consortia develop, workload to support a consortium would have to be considered. Due to limited staff and financial resources, the State cannot contribute funds or manage a contract on behalf of school libraries.

Working with teacher-librarians Joanne Didriksen from Helena and Kendra Hartman from Broadus, Orban collected school enrollment and annual circulation numbers from 53 school libraries that expressed interest in pursuing a group contract, and sent this information to three vendors who are amenable to k-12 consortia. Orban led a discussion on consortium organization and responsibilities with this group on April 8 at the Montana Library Association conference in Missoula. The group plans to

meet at the MEA-MFT conference in October to develop policies and a fee structure for the consortium, to identify a fiscal agent for the contract, and to determine how the contract will be awarded and negotiated in advance of a tentative January 2017 one-year renewable contract.

Courier

Orban created a cost sharing formula proposal for the courier after evaluating responses from the courier user and potential user surveys distributed in December and studying annual statistics from the courier contract, OCLC interlibrary loan, and Montana Shared Catalog holds reports. The purpose of this proposal is: To help fulfill the MSC's mission of encouraging resource sharing and collaboration; to help libraries that are currently struggling or unable to participate see a benefit to taking part in the courier; and to help remote MSC libraries who do not have access to the courier network to take part in resource sharing by providing a shipping discount MSC libraries are responsible for 91% of courier activity. This is an essential service to support resource sharing groups. Sharing group libraries could not support resource sharing at their current volume without a reliable courier. The formula also sustains the existing network by benefitting academic courier partners and public courier partners who are not yet part of the MSC. This proposal was shared with the MSC Executive Board at their March 2 meeting, with the Courier Advisory Board at their March 4 meeting, with the Network Advisory Council at their March 8 meeting, and with the MSC Partners resource sharing group at their March 15 meeting. The courier budget request was added to the MSC annual budget proposal for the MSC Spring meeting, where Orban was allotted time to discuss the proposal before the MSC membership took action on the budget.