



Fall 2024 Federation Report for South Central

Consulting Services

The Montana State Library consulting team provides assistance on a variety of things, from trustee training specifically for your board to director support for new and experienced directors alike. We also offer customized assistance on policy development, strategic planning, government relations, and more. Cara Orban, Corey Sloan, and Tracy Cook are the consulting team. While each is assigned a specific area, any of them will help your library. More information about the consulting team and its services can be found on the [Public Library Consulting Services website](#).

Continuing Education

Stay up to date with all things Continuing Education by subscribing to one or both of these newsletters

- [Continuing Education](#)
- [Trustees](#)

Questions? Contact [Colet Bartow](#), MSL Continuing Education Coordinator

Data Coordinator - Public Library Survey aka the Annual Statistical Report

The Public Libraries Survey (annual statistical report) is open for collection October 1 through November 29 this year. You will see revisions in the electronic collections and program sections, plus a rotating research section with questions regarding how your library addresses geographic divide. Questions can be previewed on [LibPAS Counting Opinions](#) or [About the Public Libraries Survey](#).

Lifelong Learning Programming

The Virtual Programming season is underway. [Use this form to sign up to be a cohost!](#)

Cohosting is a great way to provide impactful programming with very little work on your part! Participate as much or as little as you want. Share marketing materials with your communities and/or become a cohost on social media to give your followers convenient access to the

registration form. Prefer analogue outreach? Market to your community with flyers, and if you have room, consider holding a watch party!

Ready 2 Read Texting Program: Your patrons have access to learning tips and fun activities for caregivers with kids aged zero to four. These are texted right to their phones, making learning with young children easier for everyone! They will receive texts with facts, tips and growth each week. They can text MSL to 70138 to get started. Contact bdemontigny@mt.gov for a helpful PDF to print out or share in your library newsletter.

Montana History Portal

Last year we piloted our first LEGO challenge with our friends at the Lewis & Clark Public Library. We had a great time ([see images from the event](#)). We have taken what we learned from that inaugural contest and compiled it into a Virtual Trunk Program.

[This virtual trunk](#) contains everything you need to offer a LEGO challenge that will capture the attention and imagination of your community members ages 5 and up. This program should inspire interest in and education about Montana history, while using science, technology, art, and math skills (STEAM).

Montana Library Network

Savanna and Guil are new to the program and are very much looking forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Courier: This will be a large and important focus for our program this year. We are planning on future meetings and a survey to gain insights from libraries currently utilizing the courier service, but also working with Libraries who currently do not have access to the courier.

Hotspots: We will be assessing hotspot data use to assess unique level of current need across communities. We do plan on gradually reaching out to libraries throughout this fall and winter given their historical data use. We will be reaching out mostly to confirm current status of individual devices.

Montana Shared Catalog

The MSC has had a busy summer and we're heading into a busy fall. We have a new ticket system and Knowledge Base (KB) website which can be found here: [MSL Library Services Support](#). We upgraded to a new version of Symphony and Workflows, and you should check to make sure all your machines are on the current version – and here's the article for [Updating Workflows](#). And finally, the MSC Fall Member meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th from 10 am to 12 pm – and meeting materials will be added to the [Aspen Event Page](#) when we get closer to that date.

Talking Book Library

Montana Talking Books has several sets of Braille Legos and is developing programming around them. If any of you have any ideas for programming, please contact Marilyn Bennett at (406)444-5352 mbennett@mt.gov All ideas welcome!