



WorldCat Usage Climbs

During August Montana libraries' use of WorldCat began to rise from its summer slump. The average number of ports in use climbed slightly. The number of sessions hit the second highest level reported during this period, and the total number of searches was at an all-time high. Unquestionably there's plenty of opportunity for these numbers to increase; however, we're heartened by this steady increase of the MLN Gateway and WorldCat. If this increase continues, to continue this quality service, we will evaluate our raising simultaneous user ceiling from ten to twenty.

Reporting Period: August 2001
Overview--Inst Lvl--Sub/Hyb Indv Acct

Institution : MONTANA STATE LIBR
Symbol : MZB

	Aug	Jul	Jun	History May	Apr	Mar	Feb
. Authorizations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
. Sessions	932	837	742	960	816	743	581
. Session Turnaways	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. % Session Turnaways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Searches	2802	2217	2288	2780	2359	2397	1678
. Documents Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
. Port Limit	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
. Avg Ports	2.40	2.24	2.08	2.40	2.43	2.31	2.02
. Max Ports	9	8	8	9	8	10	10
. Port Capacity 0 - 25%	62.12	64.64	71.43	61.46	59.93	65.28	75.22
. Port Capacity 26 - 50%	34.01	33.33	26.42	35.10	37.01	31.36	22.72
. Port Capacity 51 - 75%	3.22	1.79	1.89	2.81	2.70	2.15	1.20
. Port Capacity 76 - 99%	0.64	0.24	0.27	0.63	0.37	0.67	0.52
. Port Capacity 100%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.34

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MLN Gateway Gets Cookies

Mike Price, once again alluding to my "effusiveness," has asked me to let you know that cookies are now implemented on the MLN Gateway. Here's how cookies work to pamper your overworked fingers.

First, on the MLN Gateway, when you're logging on to search WorldCat or the Gale databases, you now have the option of asking the Gateway to "Remember Library Password". Enter your MLN Gateway password once, tell the system to remember it, and for the next year the MLN Gateway will remember you. <http://montanalibraries.org/>.

Second, when you're updating your library's entry in the online Montana Library Directory (MLD), you can use cookies to remember your password. Enter your MLD password once (it's different from your MLN password so your patrons won't change your hours or the name of the library director), tell the MLD to remember it, and you're set. <http://montanalibraries.org/Directory/mldHome.asp> (requires Netscape 6.x or Explorer 5.5 or newer)



We're very pleased to find a workable solution to a *sticky* problem that has plagued state agency library users and dial-up users for over a year.

Skip the following paragraph if you don't care how or why this works and care only that it works.

This should prove useful for all of us struggling under the yoke of private IP addresses. Private IP (Internet Protocol) addresses are temporary addresses given to our computers when we send or request information from other computers on the Internet. Private IP addresses are implemented either because 1) we're part of a huge operation that, for reasons of efficiency or security, has a firewall that assigns us these addresses, or 2) we access the Internet via a dial-up or a DSL (digital service line) connection and our Internet Services Provider (ISP) dynamically assigns this temporary address to us while we're active. When we disconnect we relinquish our temporary IP address making it available for the next person accessing the web.

Questions? Call Mike at 406-444-5377 or e-mail him at miprice@state.mt.us and he'll tell you anything you want to know about MLN Cookies.

Western Montana Shared Catalog Project

We received five responses to our request for proposals (RFP). Two of these didn't meet the screening requirements and were set aside. Librarians representing twelve project libraries met at the Missoula Public Library and painstakingly scrutinized the other three, received from Endeavor, epixtech, and Sirsi. Preliminary scoring has Sirsi leading the pack; a demonstration of Sirsi was provided at the Missoula Public Library on Wednesday, September 19. Baring any changes in evaluator's scores resulting from this demonstration, and providing we can negotiate a mutually acceptable contract with Sirsi, we hope to have a signed agreement with Sirsi by the end of September.

<http://montanalibraries.org/MLNsharedcatalog.htm>

In theory, we'll go live by early April 2002. This new system will form the foundation for the statewide "server farm" that has been discussed throughout this project. The joint Bozeman—Three Forks shared catalog project is progressing as well.

OCLC & Gale Enrollment Up, Free OCLC Training Offered

Gale/InfoTrac enrollment is up about five percent from last year, bringing these great magazine databases into 371 Montana libraries (and into the homes of their users). This year about 222 Montanan libraries opted to subscribe to OCLC services; this number is up from 214 last year; twenty-eight libraries chose not to reenroll.

MLN sponsored OCLC training is scheduled for October and November, in Missoula, Manhattan, Kalispell, Billings, Great Falls, and Glendive. This free training is available for any Montana OCLC library. For more information about OCLC training, see:

<http://montanalibraries.org/MLNtraining2001.htm>.

MLN/OCLC Cost Sharing Formula Discussed at NTF Meeting

The Networking Task Force met September 10 - 11 and, when not talking about what MLN should be doing over the next five years, discussed possible models for next fiscal year's OCLC cost-share formula. The NTF strove to create a fair, affordable model, and one that raises enough money to meet our obligations to OCLC. No decision was made, but you might be interested in knowing what was discussed:

- Full cataloging libraries' share will be their anticipated next-year's OCLC transactions, less a few percentage points. This saves them money and encourages their participation; Montana's twenty full cataloging libraries provide almost three-fourths of the revenue required for this project.
- CatExpress, Web-ILL, and LaserCat libraries will pay a share comprised of a base-rate, plus their share of their last-year's CatExpress transactions.

Montana libraries need to understand that next year's OCLC costs will certainly reflect this year's usage.

- If your library uses OCLC a lot, you'll pay more next year. Of course, if you're using CatExpress to add your collection to OCLC, then you're getting good value for money; it will cost more next year but you'll have received a good value in for the additional dollars that comprise your library's share of the statewide contract.
- If your library uses OCLC inefficiently, you'll pay more than you might have done had your use been more efficient. MLN OCLC training slots are still, at the time of writing, open, free of charge. See <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNtraining2001.htm>.

Montana libraries will have an opportunity to comment on this formula once it is drafted; it will be discussed again at the NTF's November 5th meeting in Helena. After the NTF approves a draft formula, a mailing will be sent to Montana's OCLC libraries soliciting their reactions and ideas. In the meanwhile, if you wish to discuss this topic or if you have any particularly brilliant or just plain serviceable ways of encouraging equitable affordability, please let me (Bruce Newell) know. I can be reached at: 406-444-9816 or bnewell@state.mt.us. We are working hard to have a working formula in place early in calendar year 2002.

Our goal is to create an OCLC cost-sharing model that is fair, affordable, and meets our obligation to OCLC.